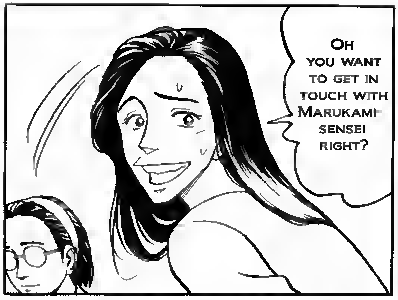
Chapter XV
LOSE U
The Project Scanlations

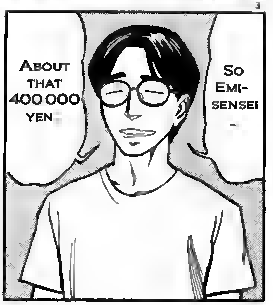
It's fin-ished!
It's fin-ished
Whew
September
2
Hey, you did it! It looks amazing!

So this is Marukami Mountain and those are the Seven Peaks I see

Let's call Nanmaru over to see it too.

3


Oh you want to get in touch with Marukami sensei right?


About that 400 000 yen

So Emi-sensei

Ah
I wasn't working on it constantly so I can't really say Maybe 6 months?
How long did it take you?
You shouldn't say things like that!
You know these days you can make this kind of thing in a flash with a computer
4
8

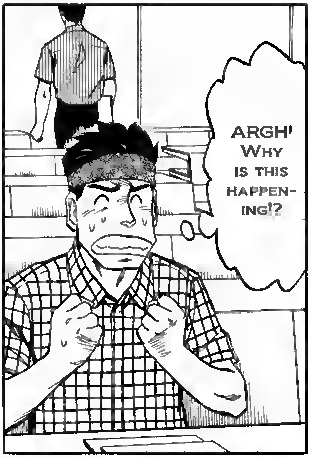
This is amaz-ing
If I could just take bits off like the Gouger I'd have been done ages ago!
It wasn't pasting the layers on one by one that got me you know? It was all the cutting and trimming and stuff
But even for you, Gouger there'd be the problem of accu-racy!
Isn't this your study? I feel like all I ever come here for is to drink
I already told you I'm not the Gouger!
You think you can do it? Just give it a try!
PUHHHHH-HHHHHH!
Exactly how many centimeters, how many millimeters do you take out? You can't do it can you?

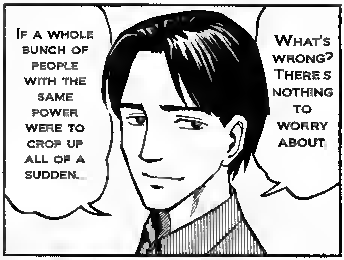
I'll...
I GET IT, I GET IT!
Sob
Don't worry he's just upset he won't get the 400,000 yen he was promised
.....
In exchange, I'm taking this...
Really ?
Really ..?
I'll get you the 400,000 yen somehow..

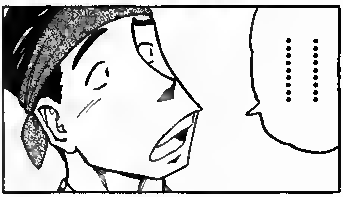
You really do need to find jobs soon
Even so, you guys...
YES-SSSS!
AWW...
N-no, it's... I got it through a friend of mine and it's not like it's a big company or anything..
AAAH!!
Actually I've already found one
Are you really not the Gouger?
By the way Nanmaru..
.....

But you have the same power so you're one of the few people it could actually be...
Well, if you put it that way...
I'm not! Do I even *look* like I'd do that sort of thing!?
Well it it's not the same power!
The punishment for doing that kind of thing is unusually severe too
Huh? Higashi-maru?
.....

Haven't you seen enough already?
Hey Asano. I'm not trying to be mean but I tnink you should stop going to that seminar
Well. he hasn't actually said so but..
I was so moved
Huh? You saw that?
The person they mentioned on TV who rescued the child... That was you. wasn't it?
Nanmaru. I don't know about the Gouger but..
But... there were a few people on TV who said. "He has the same power as the Gouger so he must be him!"...
Geh...
Don't... don't tell anyone okay!?
H-hey Asano!
Now. now. it's nothing to be embarrassed about you did a good deed


ARGH! WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING!?


IF A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE WITH THE SAME POWER WERE TO CROP UP ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WHAT'S WRONG? THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.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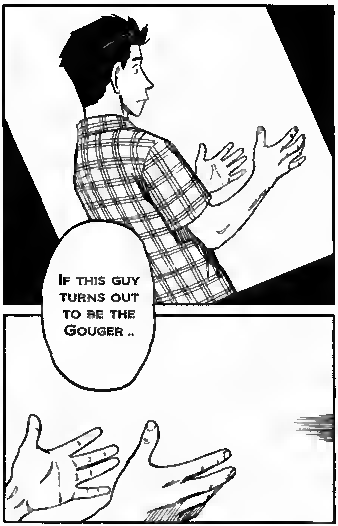
HOW MUCH WOULD THAT MAKE THESE NEGATIVES WORTH? HEHEHE


IF THIS GUY TURNS OUT TO BE THE GOUGER ..

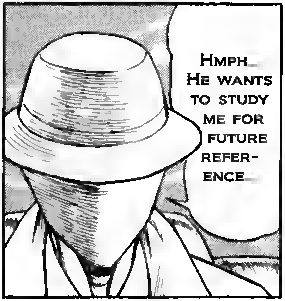
It only shone for a second so...
But I don't have a shot of the moment it lit up..
I wish I'd gotten it from a better angle!
I got his face from a bad angle too
I wonder if he lives around here...
ガラ

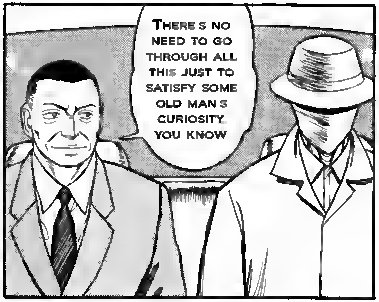
カシャ
カシャ
!!

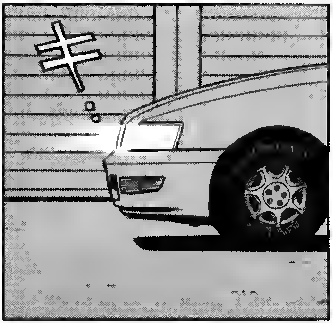
He really does have an unremarkable face
There he is! He *does* live around here!
Tch! And his only distinguishing feature is the blood blister on his forehead
カニャ
カニャ
カニャ
13

So this is where he lives...
If I can a close-up of him without the bandanna
I need to get decisive shots! A clear picture of that strange ball thing and...
I'll get them even if it means I have to become a stalker

September
I WAS POSITIVE YOU WOULD REFUSE...


HMPH... HE WANTS TO STUDY ME FOR FUTURE REFER-ENCE...


THERE'S NO NEED TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS JUST TO SATISFY SOME OLD MAN'S CURIOSITY, YOU KNOW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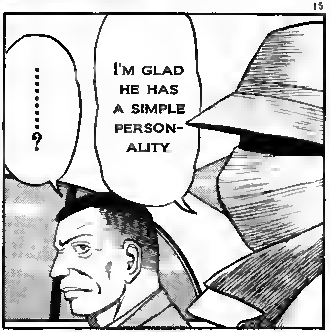
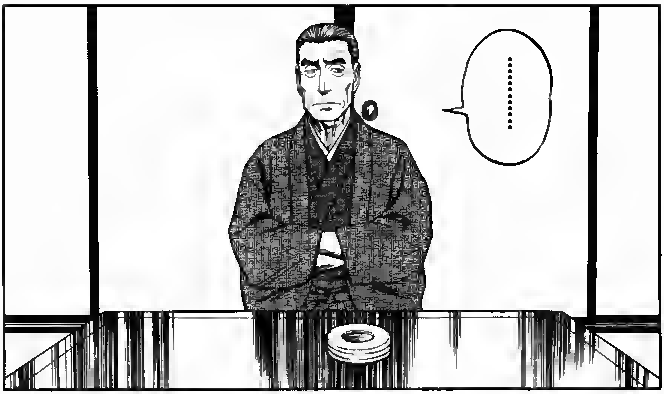

I'M GLAD HE HAS A SIMPLE PERSON-ALITY
.....?

CHECK HIM TOO.
EXCUSE US BUT WE NEED TO DO A BODY CHECK AS USUAL
YOU SHOULDN'T KEEP GUESTS WAITING.
AH!
G-GO AHEAD
SORRY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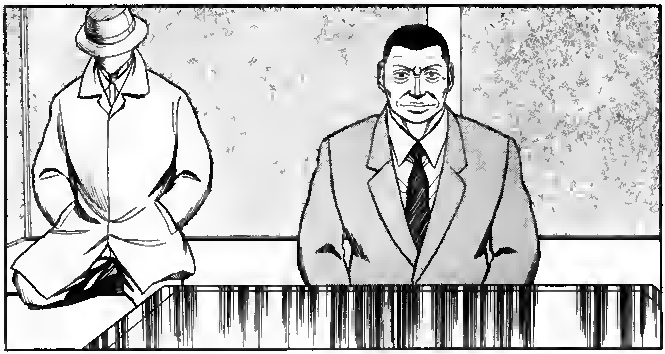

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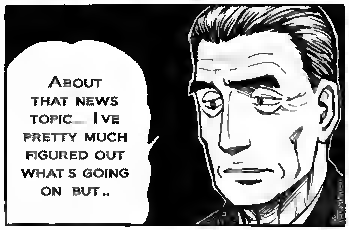
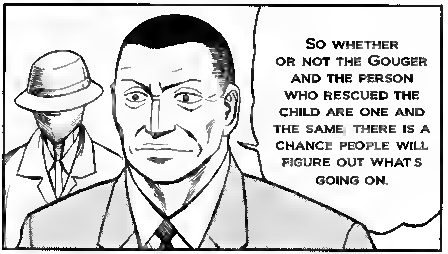
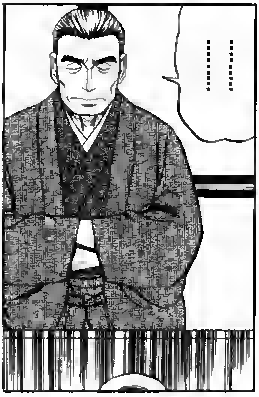
You mean with the Gouger?


About that news topic... I've pretty much figured out what's going on but..

YES. PEOPLE MAY CONNECT IT TO THE FAVOR YOU DID ME IN JUNE AND THE MURDER IN MARUKAWA TOWN A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THAT

EXACTLY! IF THAT HAPPENS ..!


SO WHETHER OR NOT THE GOUGER AND THE PERSON WHO RESCUED THE CHILD ARE ONE AND THE SAME, THERE IS A CHANCE PEOPLE WILL FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.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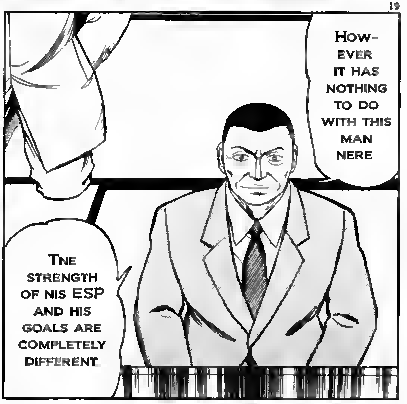
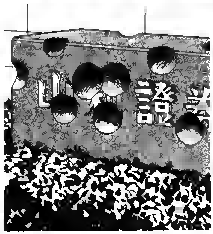
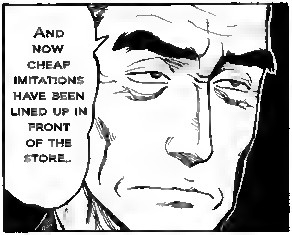
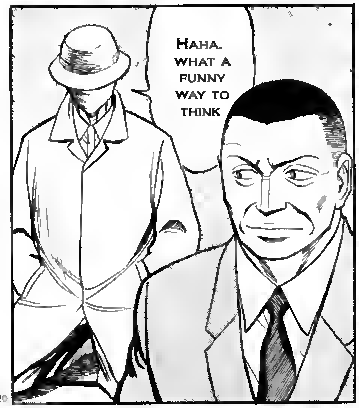
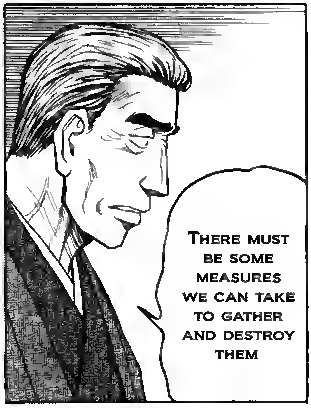

HOW-EVER IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS MAN HERE
THE STRENGTH OF HIS ESP AND HIS GOALS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

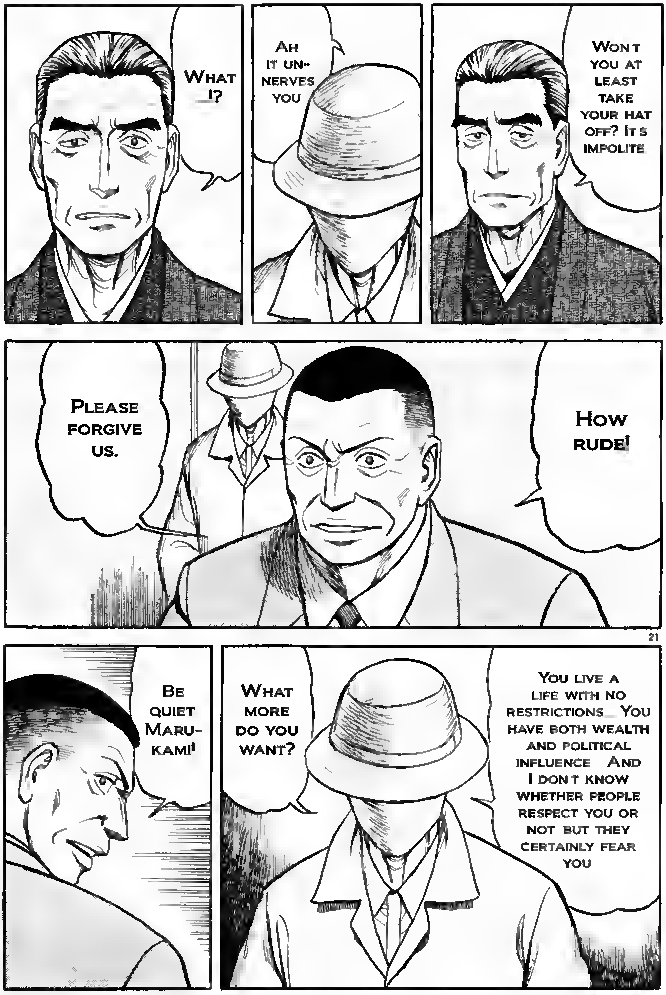
The value of this treasure will drop if care isn't taken!
Don't you understand!? This ESP is precious!




And now cheap imitations have been lined up in front of the store..

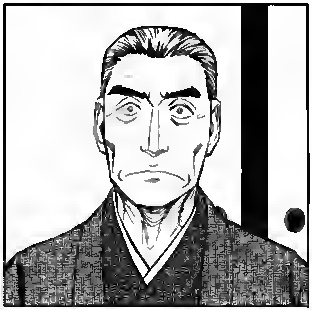

Haha. what a funny way to think

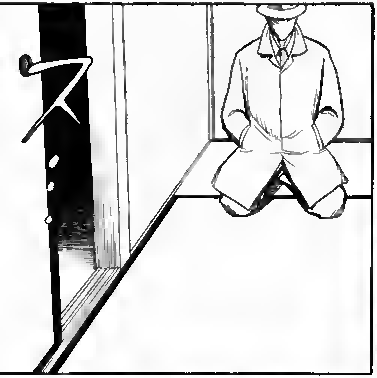

There must be some measures we can take to gather and destroy them


WHAT...!?
AH IT UNNERVES YOU
WON'T YOU AT LEAST TAKE YOUR HAT OFF? IT'S IMPOLITE
PLEASE FORGIVE US.
HOW RUDE!
21
BE QUIET MARUKAMI!
WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?
YOU LIVE A LIFE WITH NO RESTRICTIONS... YOU HAVE BOTH WEALTH AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER PEOPLE RESPECT YOU OR NOT BUT THEY CERTAINLY FEAR YOU

Slowly being buried alive...
...You are a lonely old man...

Who found a new toy and wants to monopolize and use it for the sole purpose of showing off to other people

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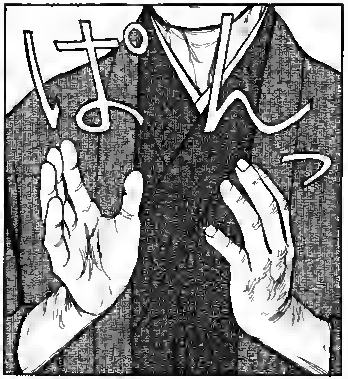
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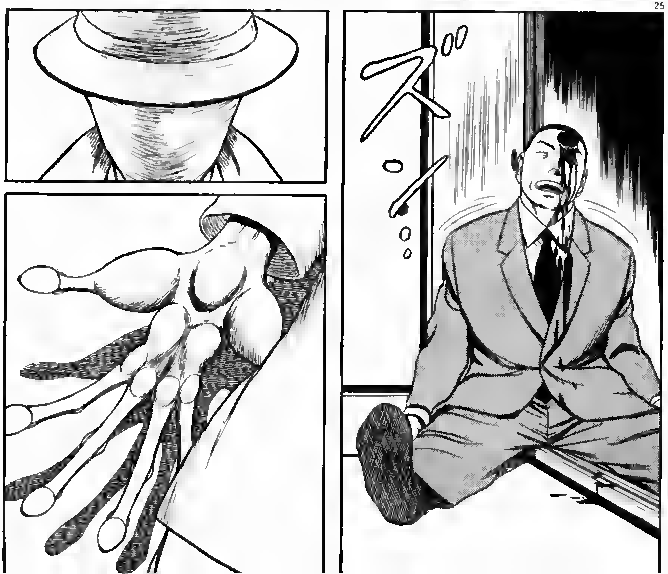
パーア

Hn
...?

ガチャ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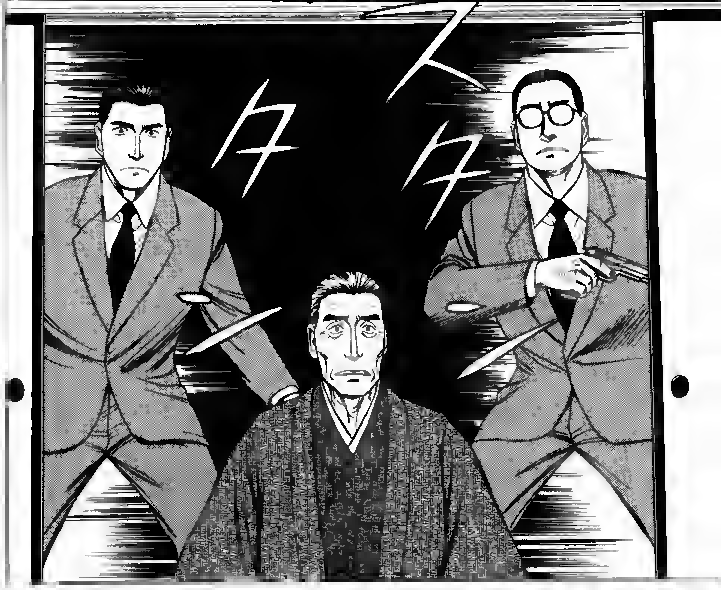
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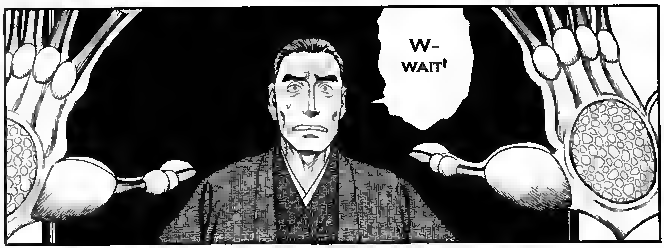
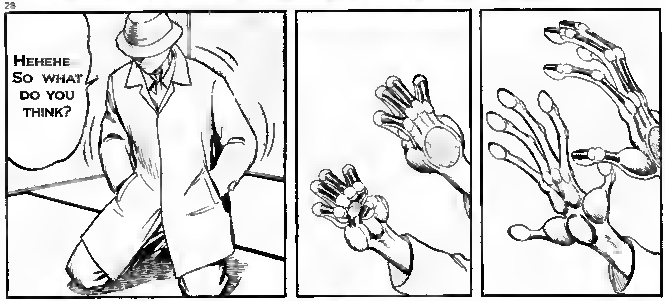
The next one will come before you even have time to clap

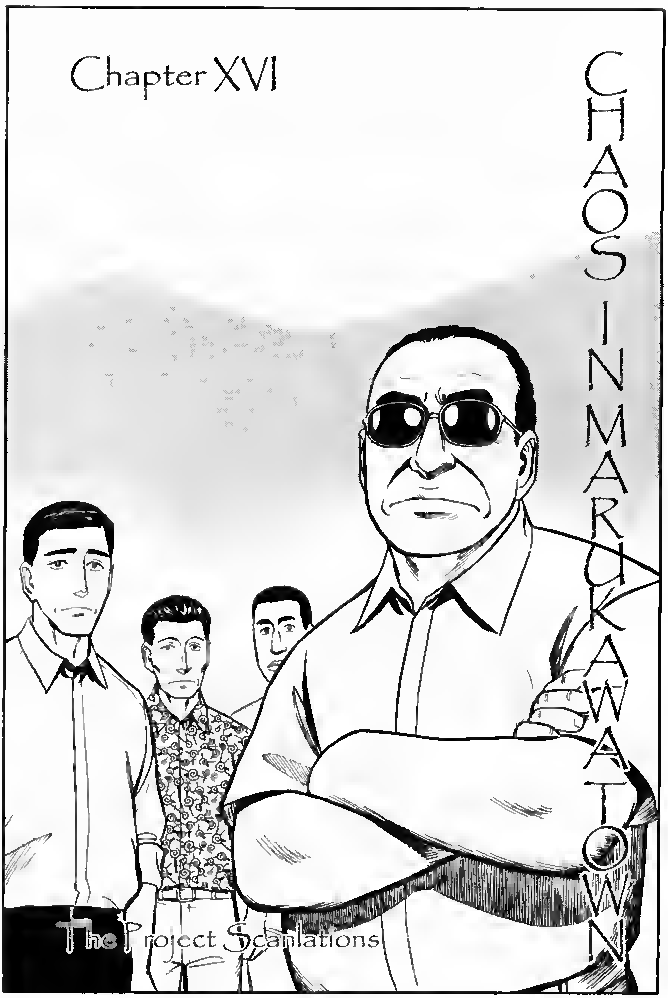

W-wait!

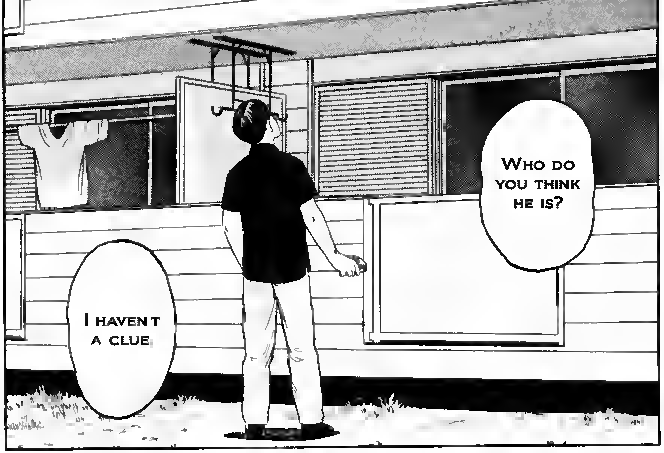
28

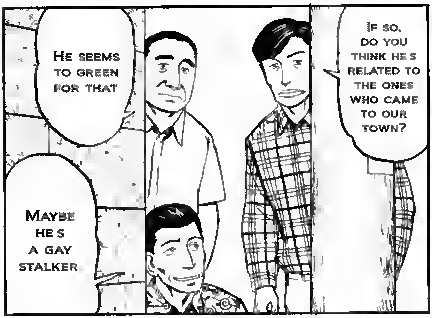

Hehehe So what do you think?

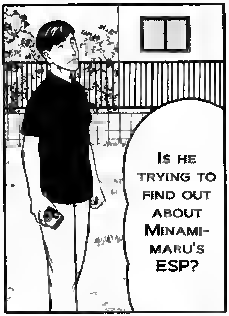
MA-MARU-KAMI!
HUH?
IF YOU WISH I AM WILLING TO BECOME PART OF YOUR COLLECTION FOR A TIME
LET ME SHOW YOU
UHA. HA..
UH
29
HOW RUDE. HAVE YOU EVER EVEN SEEN AN ALIEN BEFORE..?
AN ALIEN!?
AN..
AAH!!

Even though I look like this, I am Japanese.

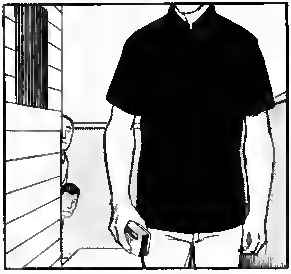

Chapter XVI
CHAOS IN MARUKAWA TOWN
The Project Scanlations

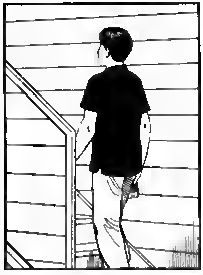

Who do you think he is?
I haven't a clue.


He seems to green for that
If so, do you think he's related to the ones who came to our town?
Maybe he's a gay stalker


Is he trying to find out about Minami-maru's ESP?

Oh!





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カチャ
カチャ

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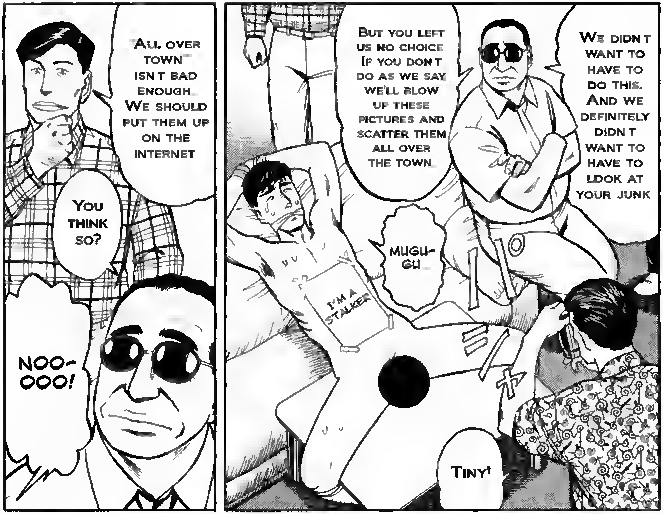
3
WE'RE GOING AFTER HIM?
IF HE WENT AS FAR AS TO TRY TO ENTER MINAMI-MARU'S ROOM, WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT LIKE THAT
YES

Is Mina-mimaru at home?
Doesn't seem like it He must be at school.
That's fine. We only came to find out where he is today anyway
ガチャ
WA-WA-WA!?

Not dangerous!? You look it!!
Be quiet We're not dangerous
What are you doing!? You can't just enter someone else's house like this!!
Hey look at this!
Shut up, you stalker!
5
This is not good
Hmm...

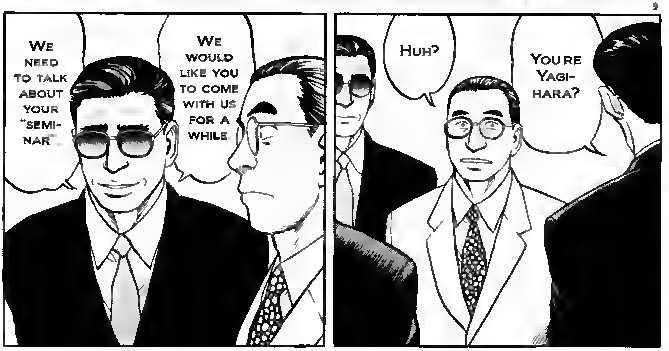
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!? WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE!?
BUT IT'S LUCKY THIS GUY IS JUST A NOVICE
HUH?
STOP FOLLOWING THIS GUY AROUND
HEY, YOU
6
WOAH, THIS GUY SECRETLY TOOK PICTURES LADIES'S RESTROOM!
!!
I'M CALLING THE POLICE!
I SEE! YOU GUYS ARE WITH THE GOUGER, AREN'T YOU?

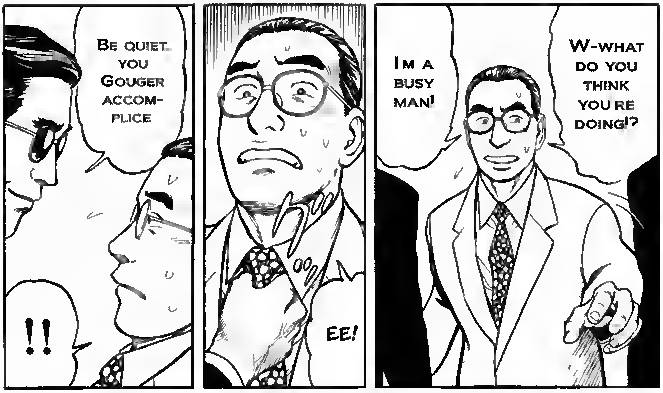
STOP!!
YOU ARE SUCH A PERVERT!
TEE-!
HA!
WE'RE JUST A FEW MEMBERS OF THE DREADFUL ORGANIZATION HE HAS BEHIND HIM
I'M GOING TO SAY THIS ONE MORE TIME. STOP FOLLOWING THIS GUY AROUND
THTOOOP! LETH ME GOOOO!
WELL, THEN
YOU'D BETTER STOP IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE
GIMME A BREAK! THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A MANGA! I'M SO GONNA SUE!

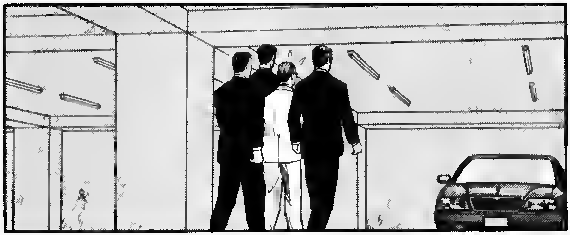

ALL OVER TOWN ISN'T BAD ENOUGH. WE SHOULD PUT THEM UP ON THE INTERNET
YOU THINK SO?
NOO-OOO!
BUT YOU LEFT US NO CHOICE IF YOU DON'T DO AS WE SAY, WE'LL BLOW UP THESE PICTURES AND SCATTER THEM ALL OVER THE TOWN.
WE DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO DO THIS. AND WE DEFINITELY DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO LOOK AT YOUR JUNK
MUGU-GU
I'M A STALKER
TINY!

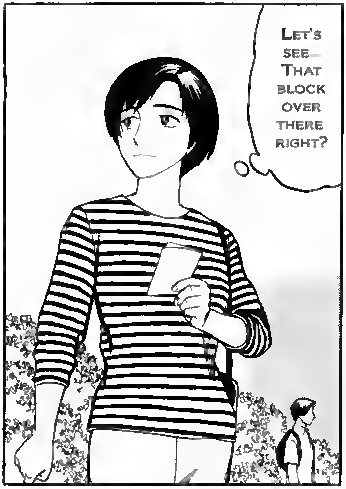
MINAMIMARU PROBABLY ISN'T THE GOUGER BUT IT'S OBVIOUS HE'S LEARNT HOW TO USE HIS POWERS

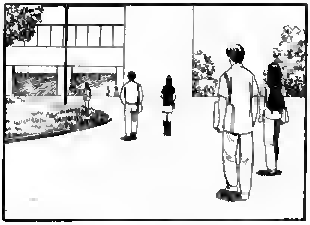
HEE HEE HEE!
YOU LAUGHED AT THE "DREADFUL ORGANIZATION" BIT TOO, RIGHT?
WE NEED TO WARN HIM BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET HIS POWERS GET NOTICED FROM NOW ON.

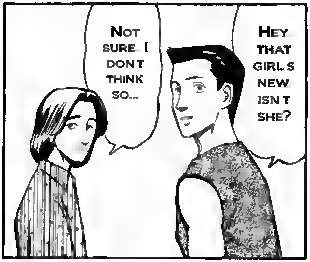

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT YOUR "SEMI-NAR"...
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME WITH US FOR A WHILE
HUH?
YOU'RE YAGI-HARA?


Be quiet, you Gouger accom-plice
!!
EE!
Im a busy man!
W-what do you think you're doing!?

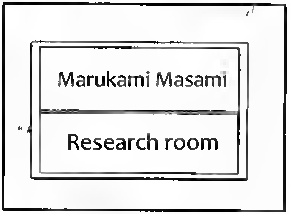


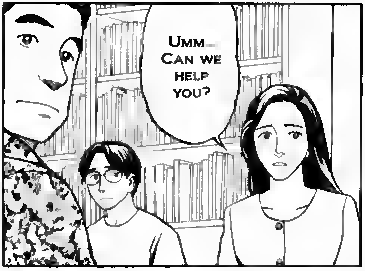

LET'S SEE— THAT BLOCK OVER THERE RIGHT?




NOT SURE I DON'T THINK SO...
HEY THAT GIRL'S NEW ISN'T SHE?

COME IN.
コン コン

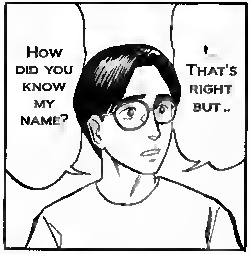

Marukami Masami
Research room


UMM— CAN WE HELP YOU?

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU

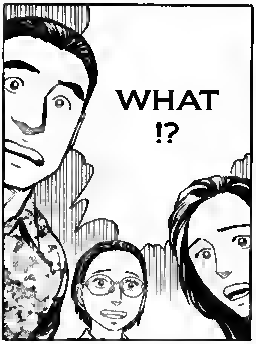
My name is Higashi-maru Sachiko
Higashi-maru?
Yes. Hello!
Oh! You're the girl from the teahouse in Maru-kawa!
Yes
Are you Emi-sensei?
She's from Marukawa Town.
But of course. You are from that Marukawa Town.
Hehe... You can tell?
Ah! That's
A-

AMAZ-
ING!
WAH!


HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?
THAT'S RIGHT BUT..

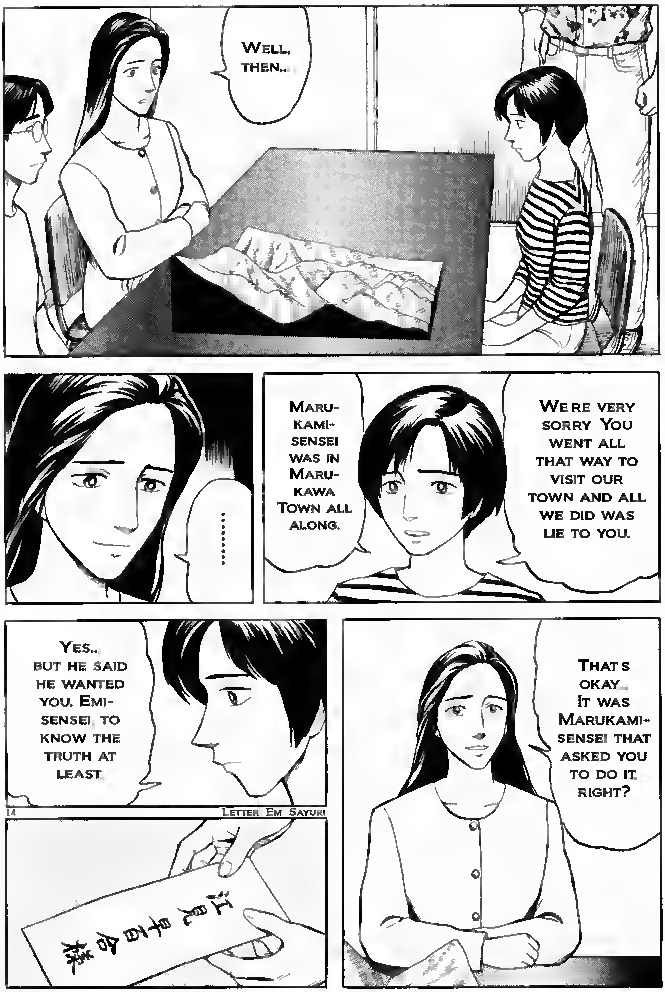
OH THEN YOU MUST BE TAGAYA

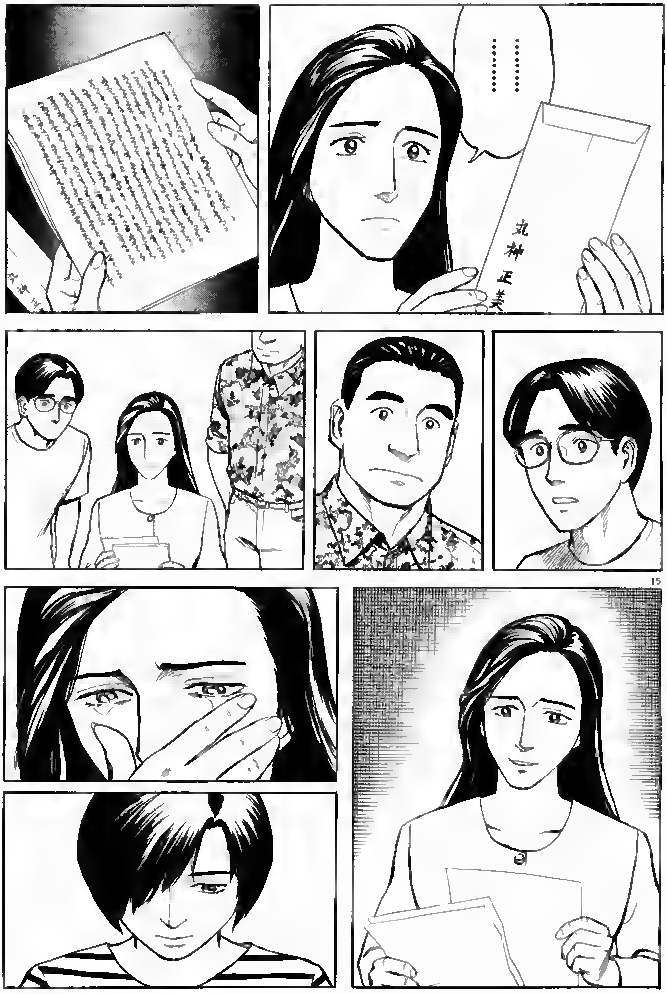
UM I'M THE ONE WHO MADE IT..

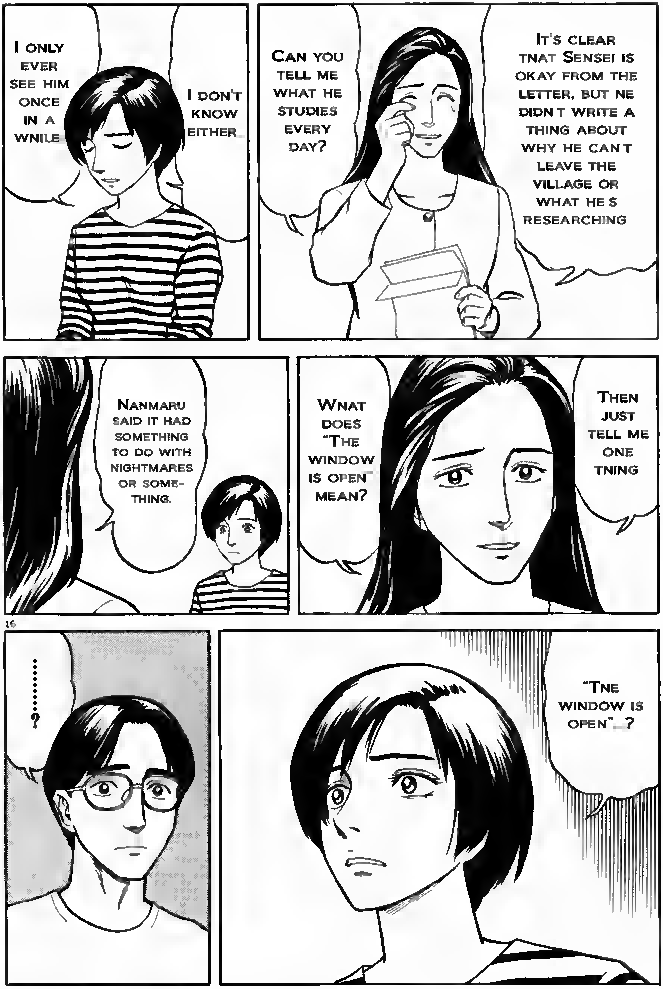

WHAT
!?

WHAT IS IT?
400,000 YEN

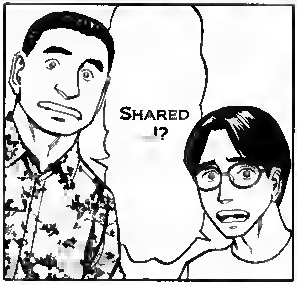
THIS IS FOR YOU.


WELL, THEN..
.....
MARU-KAMI-SENSEI WAS IN MARU-KAWA TOWN ALL ALONG.
WE'RE VERY SORRY YOU WENT ALL THAT WAY TO VISIT OUR TOWN AND ALL WE DID WAS LIE TO YOU.
YES.. BUT HE SAID HE WANTED YOU, EMI-SENSEI, TO KNOW THE TRUTH AT LEAST.
14 LETTER EM SAYURI
THAT'S OKAY... IT WAS MARUKAMI-SENSEI THAT ASKED YOU TO DO IT, RIGHT?


……
丸神正美

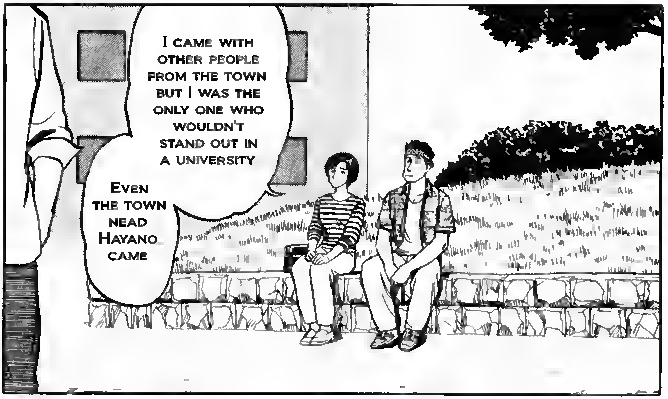

I ONLY EVER SEE HIM ONCE IN A WHILE
I DON'T KNOW EITHER
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HE STUDIES EVERY DAY?
IT'S CLEAR THAT SENSEI IS OKAY FROM THE LETTER, BUT HE DIDN'T WRITE A THING ABOUT WHY HE CAN'T LEAVE THE VILLAGE OR WHAT HE'S RESEARCHING
NANMARU SAID IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH NIGHTMARES OR SOMETHING.
WHAT DOES "THE WINDOW IS OPEN" MEAN?
THEN JUST TELL ME ONE THING
16
.....?
"THE WINDOW IS OPEN"...?

I'M SORRY ...
I REALLY CAN'T DESCRIBE IT...
AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN NIGHT-MARES...
NIGHTMARES SHARED BY MANY MEMBERS OF MARUKAMI VILLAGE...

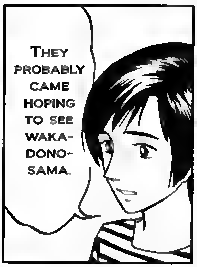

SHARED !?

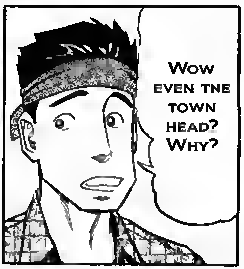
.....

WHAT-EVER!
IM NOT PART OP YOUR SEMINAR GROUP
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS BRINGING ME TO THIS ROOM?
NAN-MARU-SAN!
AAAH! SACHIKO-CHAN!!
HUH?
YOU FOUND OUT


I came with other people from the town but I was the only one who wouldn't stand out in a university
Even the town head Hayano came

Huh? Me?


They probably came hoping to see waka-dono-sama.

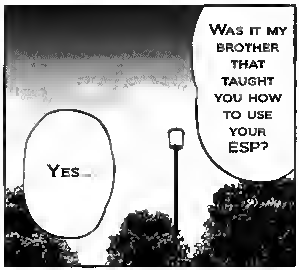

Wow even the town head? Why?

Nan-maru-kun let me see your hand
Hm?

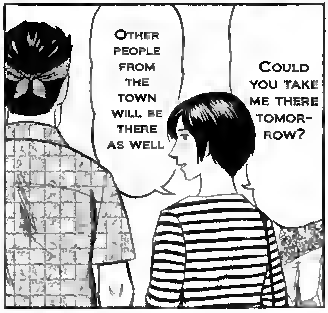
Whaat? So I'm the fake one?

Not you. The real one.

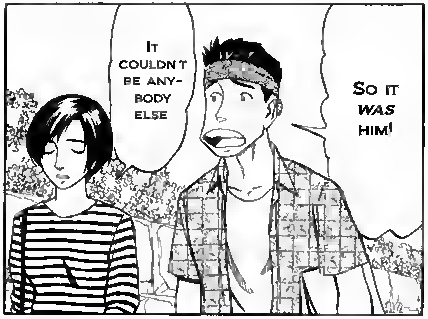
.....

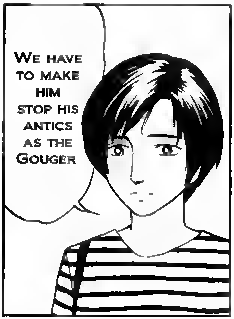

Was it my brother that taught you how to use your ESP?
Yes...

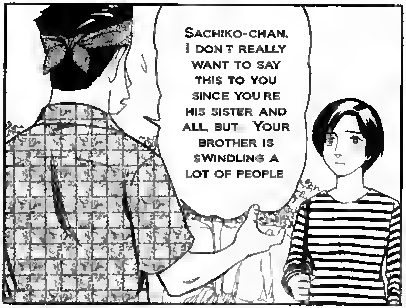
It's not showing on your hands yet..

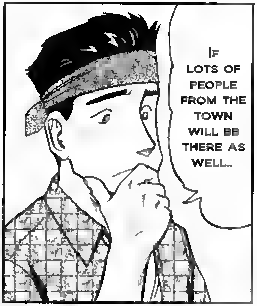

Other people from the town will be there as well
Could you take me there tomorrow?

I don't know where he lives but I do know a place where he's likely to show up
So then do you know where he is?

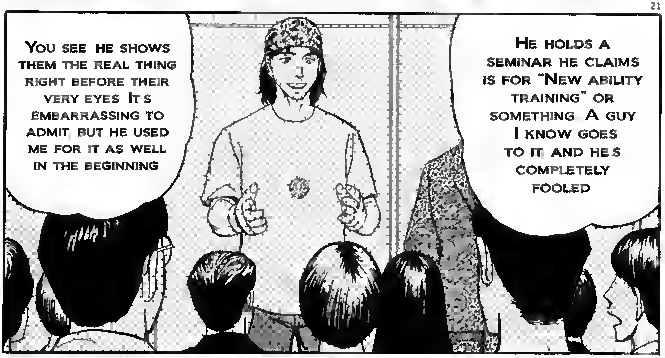

It couldn't be anybody else
So it WAS him!


We have to make him stop his antics as the Gouger

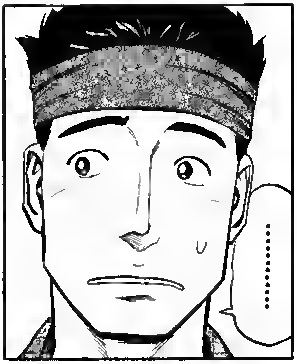

Sachiko-chan, I don't really want to say this to you since you're his sister and all, but Your brother is swindling a lot of people


If lots of people from the town will be there as well...

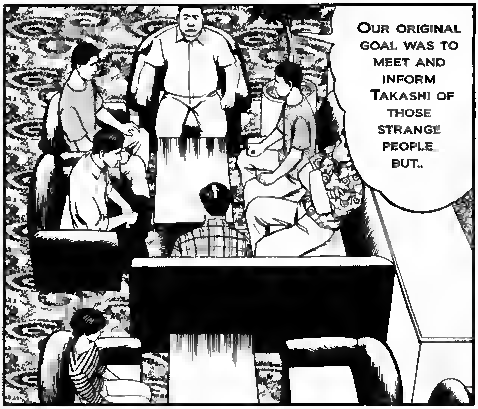
21


You see he shows them the real thing right before their very eyes It's embarrassing to admit but he used me for it as well in the beginning
He holds a seminar he claims is for "New ability training" or something A guy I know goes to it and he's completely fooled

That guy..!
That's just the sort of thing my brother would do
But the people from Marukawa Town know a lot more about this ESP thing than I do. So maybe they'll be able to clear up the lies! Right?
You should only use it when absolutely necessary
Hands that reach ESP
Why?
Yeah?
By the way Minami-maru


……

It's not a blood blister
The thing that appeared on your forehead


Our original goal was to meet and inform Takashi of those strange people but..

ION HOTE

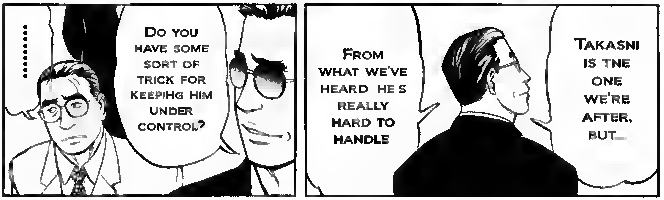
We can't just turn a blind eye to this!!
He's "The Gouger"!? And a swindler!?

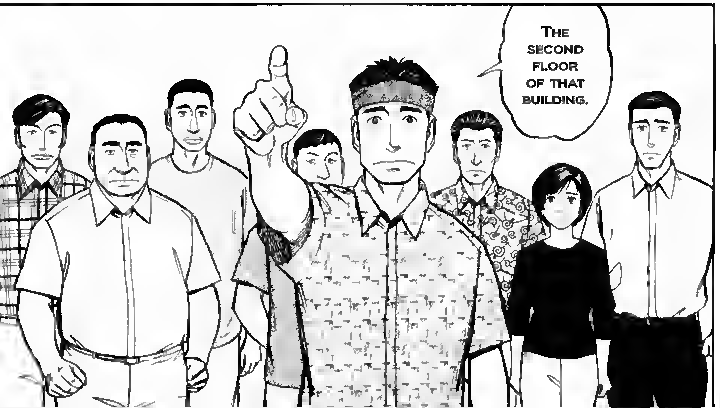
How pathetic! Do you think our elders would have reacted like that!?
But it's Takashi...
What will we do if he gets angry?
Sacchan...
[...] can't take it anymore...
Sigh... I need to get a job.
This has turned into a whole big thing tomorrow huh...

Chapter XVII
THE END OF THE SEMINAR
The Project Scanlations

He's not that careless with his money.
Takashi occasionally sleeps out but he usually just spends the night at the office.
The safe is in the office as well.
I see.
2
.....
Sorry for being so rough.

FRAUD IS WRONG.
BUT WE MUST ASK YOU TO STOP HOLDING YOUR "SEMINARS"
WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR SMALL CHANGE SO NEVER MIND THE MONEY
3


DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF TRICK FOR KEEPING HIM UNDER CONTROL?
FROM WHAT WE'VE HEARD HE'S REALLY HARD TO HANDLE
TAKASNI IS THE ONE WE'RE AFTER, BUT...


THE SECOND FLOOR OF THAT BUILDING.

It's Asano..

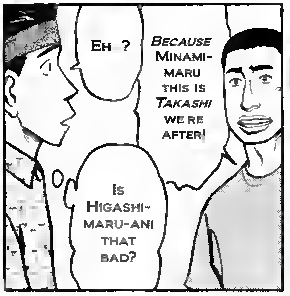
Wow he's still got so many people coming

Let's go!
Let... let's go!

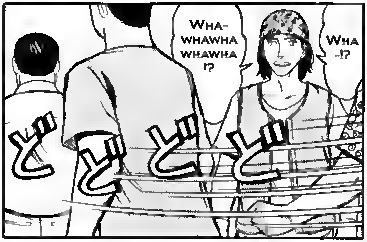
Brace yourselves, everybody. We're going in!
Okay
Yes, sir!

4

Even his sister Sachiko is scared


Eh ?
Because Minami-maru this is Takashi we're after!
Is Higashi-maru-ani that bad?

What's wrong? Why is everyone so stiff?


Wha-whawhawhawha!?
Wha-!?
どどどど

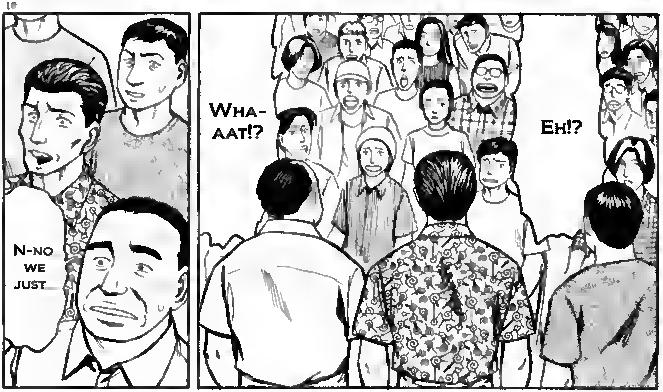
If you use your ESP recklessly it won't just affect you! Soon the whole village will be dragged into it!
Stop doing the Gouger thing! What could you possibly stand to gain from using your ESP in such a manner!?
Number one!
Takasni! We need to nave a talk witn you!
Wait a minute! ..
You should be ashamed of yourself!
There's no way people with no blood relation to the village whatsoever will ee able to gain "Hands that reach" ESP!
Number two! What's this I hear about fraud!?
.....
Even you should understand that!
6
"Nanmaru"?
Were the ones who asked Nanmaru to bring us here!
No!
Hey Higashimaru... you certainly planned this out didn't you? ..

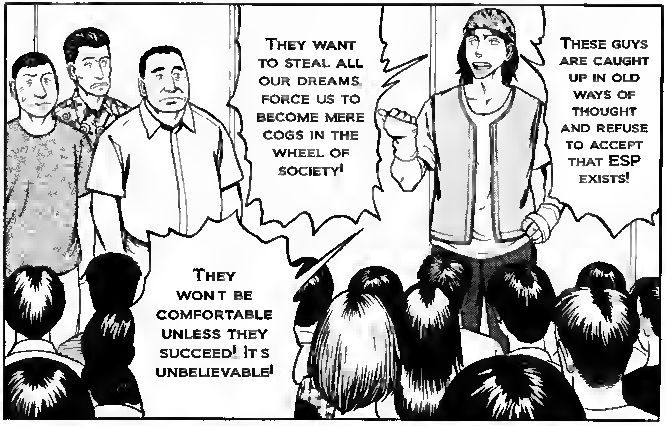
.....
Jerk ?
If you think we're just going to keep letting you get away with everything you're wrong jerk!
!
Don't you mean Honorable elder brother ?
Ah I'm her meat shield
Oi Sachiko!
What's wrong ?

SACHIKO! So you've learnt how to deceive men now, huh!?
You need to give everyone their money back!
Hey Higashimaru! You really are just using this seminar to swindle people, right?
Yeah, yeah!
Behave yourself, Takashi!
No! That's not it at all!
What?
Ugh...
Stop this fraud!

Hmph
D-don't do it
Ah! That's
W-wait, Takashi!
パチパチパチパ

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
AN OUTRAGEOUS THING HAS HAPPENED!
A BUNCH OF OLD MEN HAVE COME TO BREAK UP OUR SEMINAR!

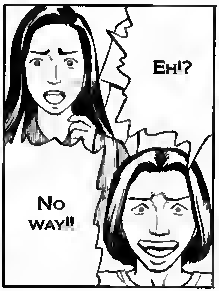

WHA-AAT!?
EH!?
N-NO WE JUST...

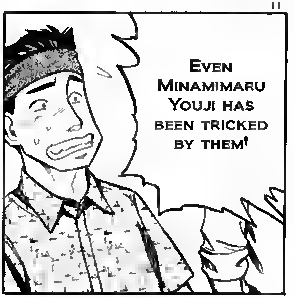

They want to steal all our dreams, force us to become mere cogs in the wheel of society!
These guys are caught up in old ways of thought and refuse to accept that ESP exists!
They won't be comfortable unless they succeed! It's unbelievable!

Even the one who should have come to demonstrate his ESP.
In fact!

Th-that's not it We're just..

W-wa i

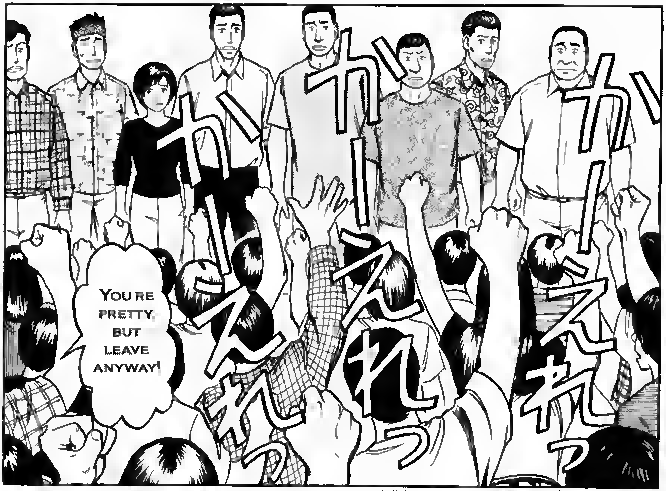

Eh!?
No way!!


Even Minamimaru Youji has been tricked by them!

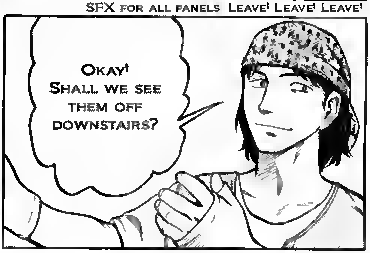
YEAH, MINAMI-MARU!
PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER!
WHY MINAMIMARU!? AREN'T YOU, YOURSELF A FINE USER OF ESP!?
YOU
ASANO
WAKE UP, NAN-MARU!
DON'T BETRAY US LIKE THIS!
LEAVE! LEAVE!
LEAVE!
YEAH, LEAVE!
GO HOME, OLD MEN!

Oh
So pretty—
Everyone, please listen to me!
You've got it all wrong!
But for a long time now, he's been a swindler.
That man over there is my brother!
13
"Marukami Village"? What's that supposed to be some ninja village?
The ESP you have been shown does, of course, exist. But it can only be gained through inheritance by descendants of Marukami Village. Even among us, very few possess it. So there's no way normal people could-

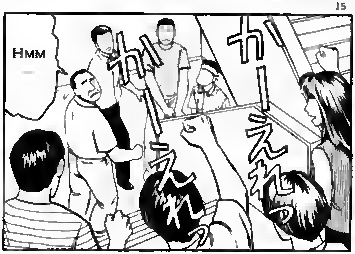
TAKA-
SHI..
BRO-
THER
MA'AM
?
WE MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND IT YET, BUT THERE *IS* PHYSICAL EVIDENCE FOR IT. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR FOLK TALES ABOUT INHERITED ABILITIES IN NINJA VILLAGES. GET IT?
COME ON. THE DIMENSION BALL ISN'T NINJUTSU!
14
LET'S HAVE YOU GO HOME!
SO. NOW THAT THAT'S DONE.
THREE GO!
.....

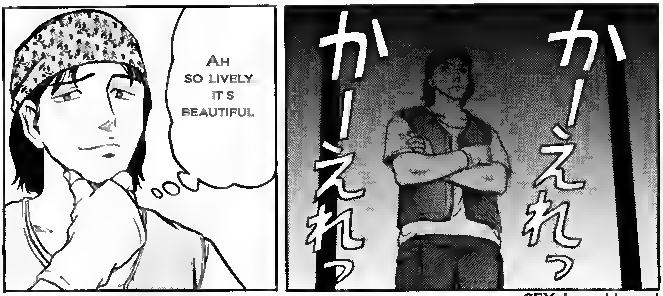


SFX FOR ALL PANELS LEAVE! LEAVE! LEAVE!

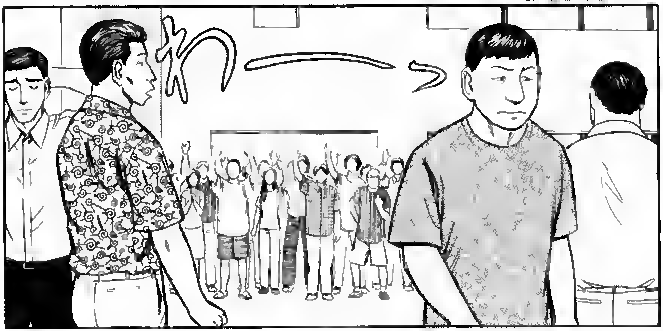


15





SFX: Leave! Leave!



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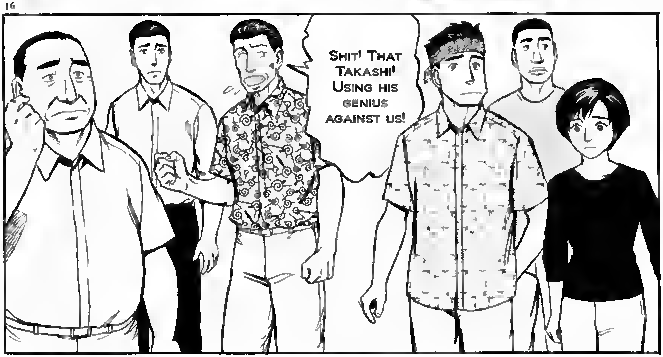
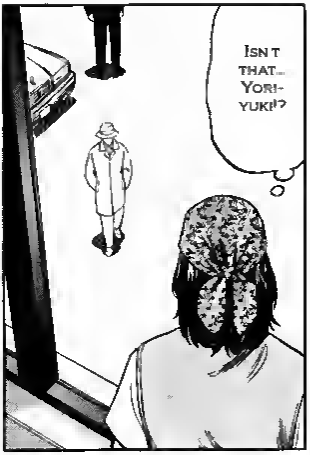
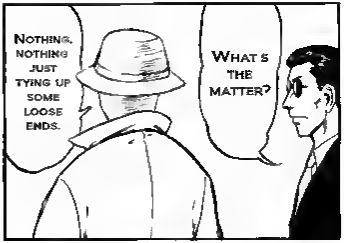


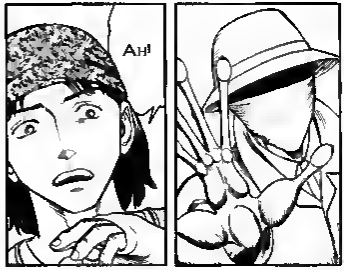
キィ…
キィ…
OH!
WHAT?
YORI-YUKI
HM?
WELL.. WELL.. IF IT ISN'T..


ISN'T THAT... YORI-YUKI?

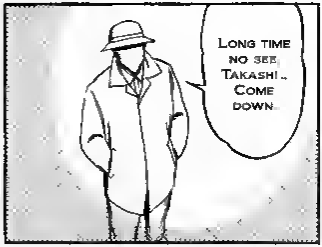

NOTHING. NOTHING JUST TYING UP SOME LOOSE ENDS.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

!

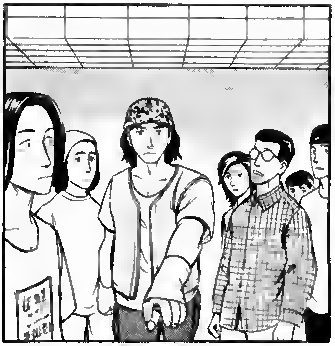
ピーッ

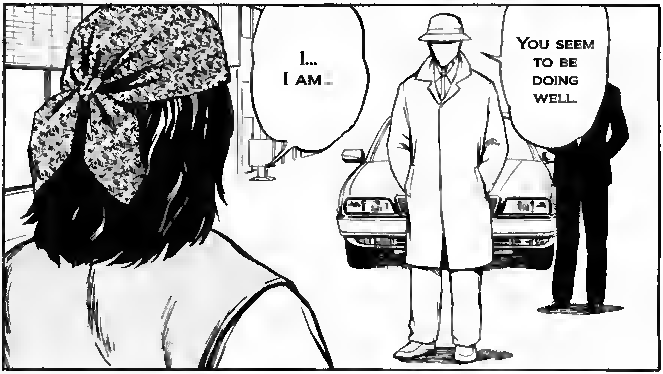

AH!

QUICK-LY

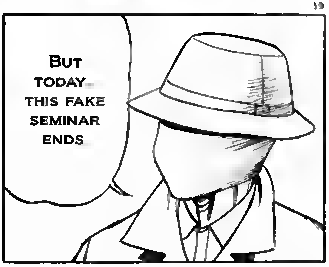

LONG TIME NO SEE, TAKASHI... COME DOWN.

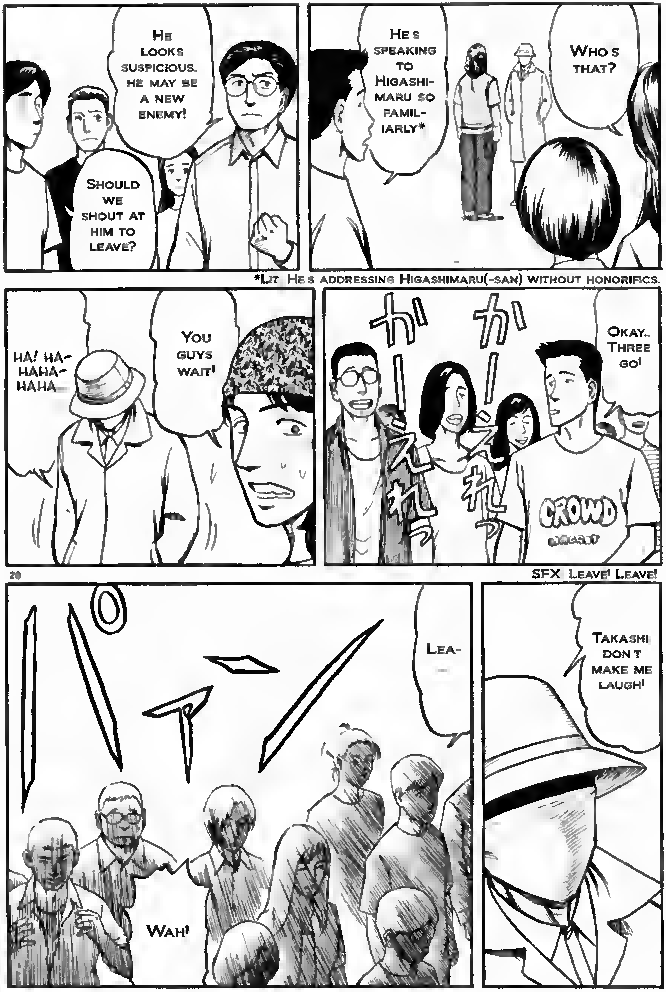
NICE TO SEE YOU YORI-YUKI



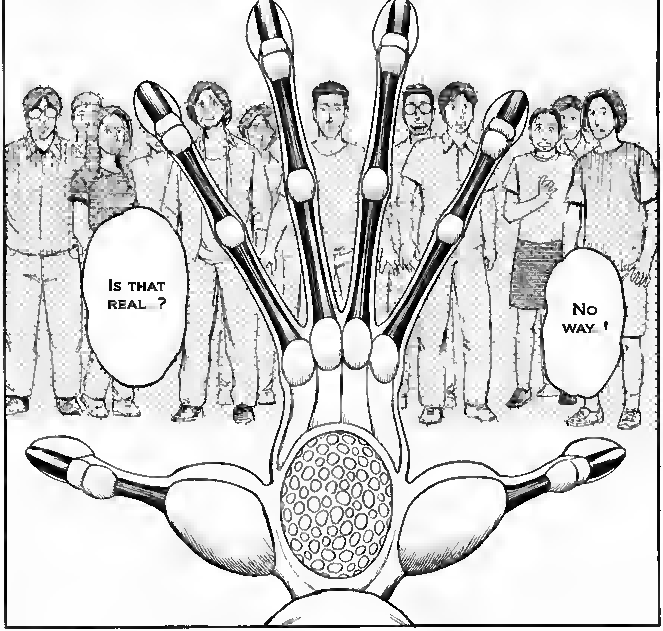

I... I AM...
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL

YORI-YUKI...!
B-BUT...!

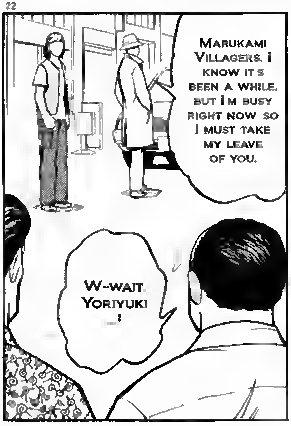

BUT TODAY... THIS FAKE SEMINAR ENDS

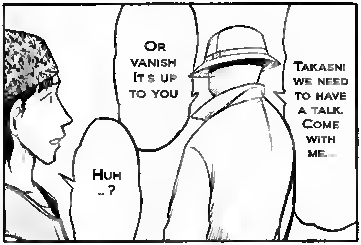

He looks suspicious. He may be a new enemy!
Should we shout at him to leave?
He's speaking to Higashimaru so familiarly*
Who's that?
*Lit. He's addressing Higashimaru(-san) without honorifics.
Ha! Ha-haha-haha
You guys wait!
Okay.. Three go!
CROWD
20
SFX Leave! Leave!
Lea-
Wah!
Takashi don't make me laugh!

HUH!?
.....
UH...
RIGHT TAKASHI?
YOU COMMONERS. NO *HOMO SAPIENS* COULD NOT GAIN THIS ABILITY EVEN IF YOU PRACTICED FOR A HUNDRED MILLENNIA!
THIS IS A POWER YOU CAN NEVER POSSESS.
21
LOOK AT MY HANDS. LOOK WELL.
IT'S A LIE! HE'S LYING RIGHT!?
THEN WE WERE TRICKED...?
BUT...


Is that real...?
No way!

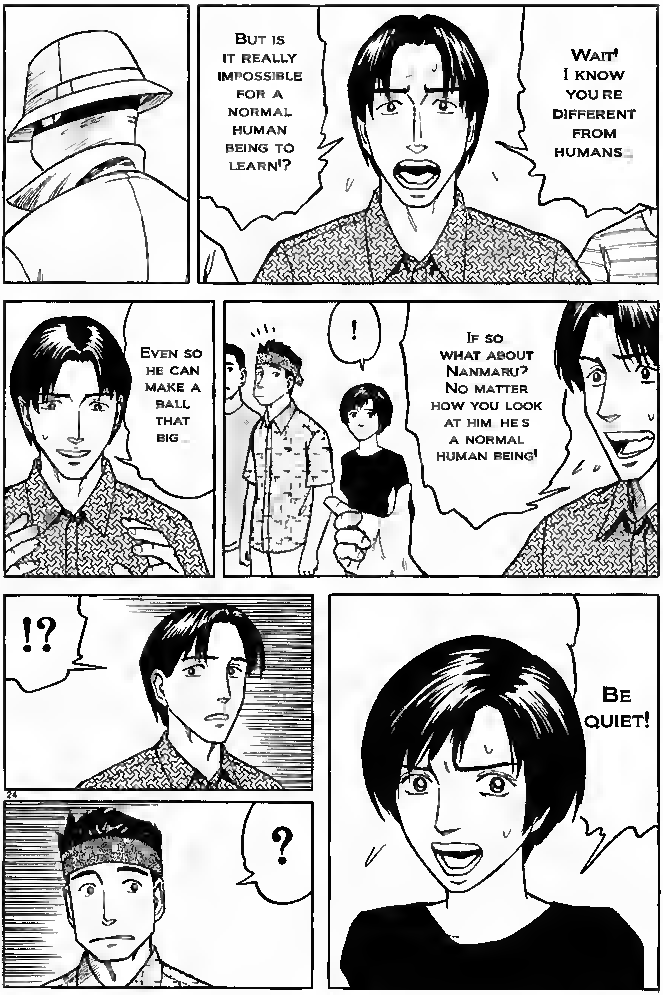
22

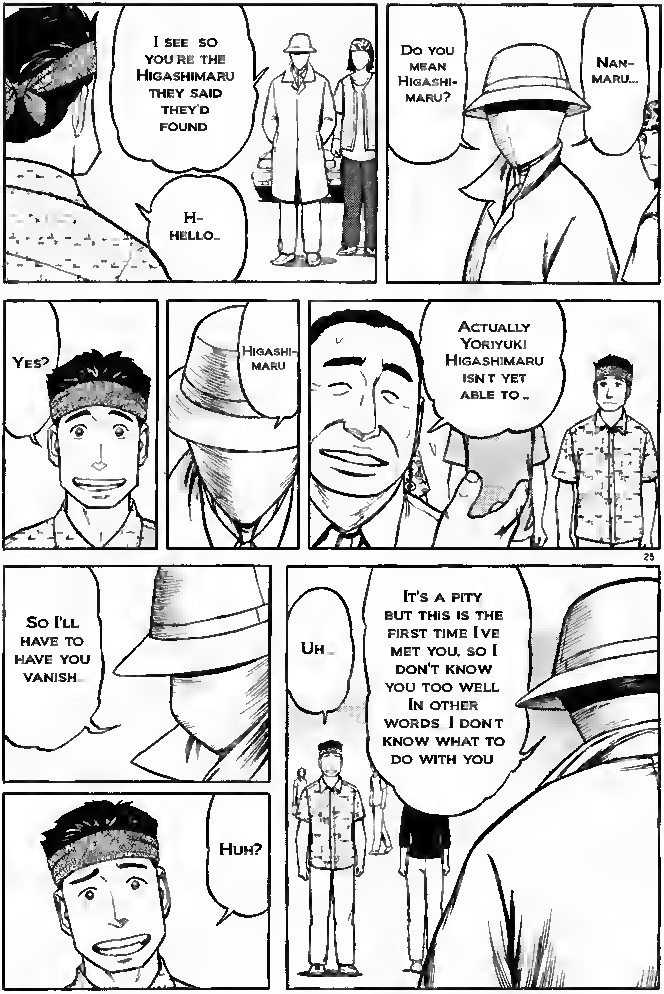

Marukami Villagers. I know it's been a while, but I'm busy right now so I must take my leave of you.
W-wait Yoriyuki...!


Takaeni we need to have a talk. Come with me...
Or vanish It's up to you
Huh...?

!!

And the seminar is over...
If it's impossible for normal people to learn...
Hey, wait!
.....
What about all the money we paid!?
If you want your money back have a talk with this guy.
Ah!
23
Yagihara.


But is it really impossible for a normal human being to learn!?
Wait! I know you're different from humans.
Even so he can make a ball that big...
!
If so what about Nanmaru? No matter how you look at him he's a normal human being!
!?
?
Be quiet!


I see so you're the Higashimaru they said they'd found
H-hello..
Do you mean Higashi-maru?
Nan-maru...
Yes?
Higashi-maru
Actually Yoriyuki Higashimaru isn't yet able to..
25
So I'll have to have you vanish..
Huh?
Uh..
It's a pity but this is the first time I've met you, so I don't know you too well In other words I don't know what to do with you

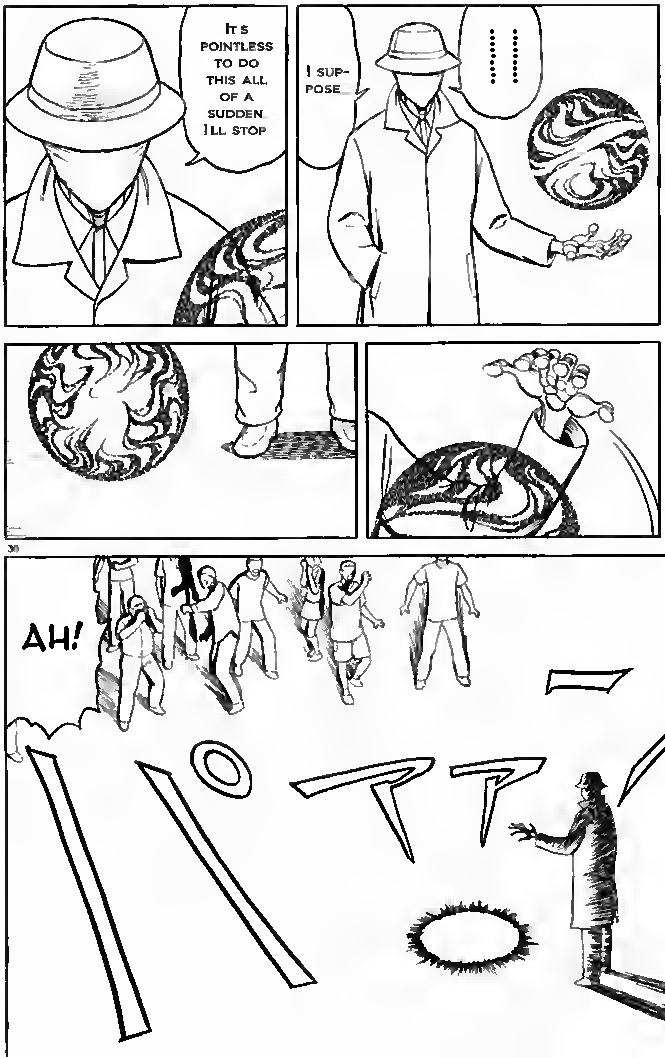
STOP PLAYING AROUND!!
TH-THAT'S I
THERE'S NO NEED!
W-WAIT! YORI-YUKI!
"HAVE ME VANISH"
DOES HE MEAN GO HOME ?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
DON'T! THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE!

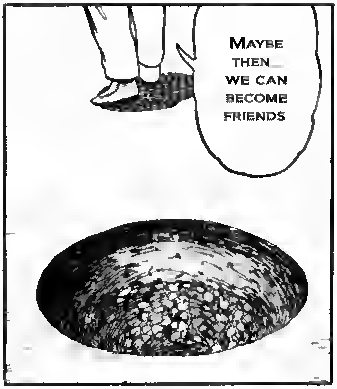
If one who knows *it* intends to do *that*
Do it
One for whom "the window is open" would understand
I'm being completely serious I don't have the time to explain.
Sachiko !?
Wah!
"Do it"?
カー
Ow!
ガ"
ガ"

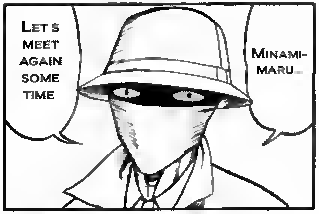
MAKE IT LEVEL WITH MINE!
NANMARU! YOUR HEAD!

!!
SHE'S PROTECTING ME...?
SA-CHIKO... YOU...

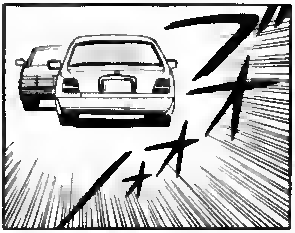
No-no way! He's going to hit me with that!?
Please...
Don't worry!
S-stop it, Sachiko! Don't!
Yoriyuki...
Stop...


It's POINTLESS TO DO THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN. I'LL STOP
I SUP-POSE...
.....
AH!


MAYBE THEN... WE CAN BECOME FRIENDS


LET'S MEET AGAIN SOME TIME
MINAMI-MARU...

.....


ブオ
オオ

LET'S GO
Y-YES

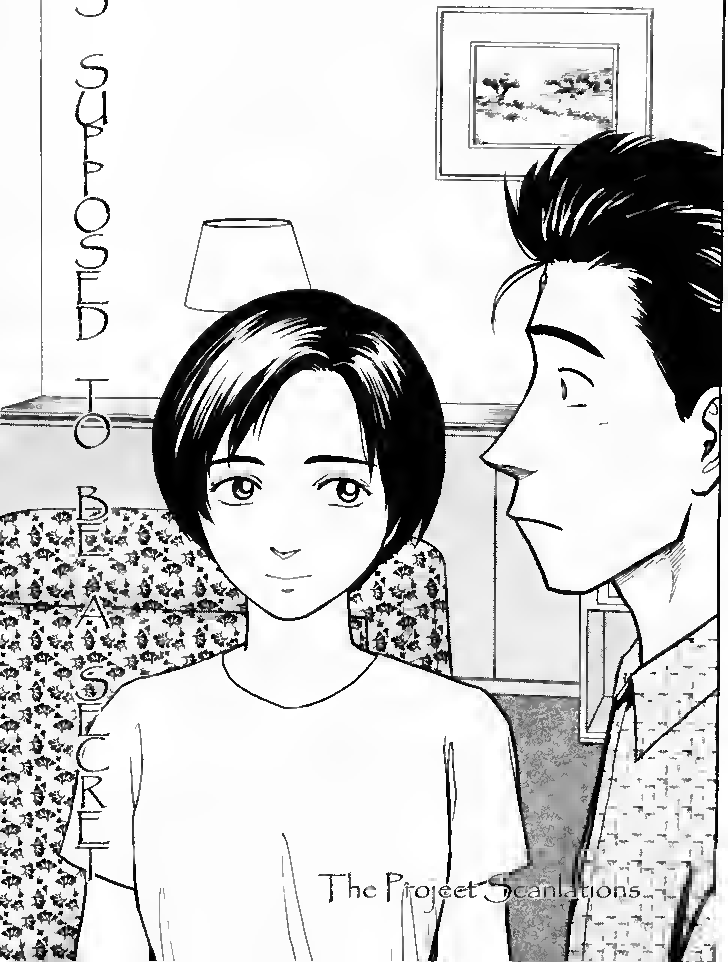
I DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING! I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM BEFORE!

WHY WOULD HE SUDDENLY...
WHAT'S GOING ON!? I DON'T GET IT!

.....
I'm sorry
If you want
Will you come with us to our hotel?
We're truly sorry Minamimaru. There's much we need to tell you
For now get our money back?
Now what do we do?
Nan-maru
.....

It's Supposed To Be A Secret

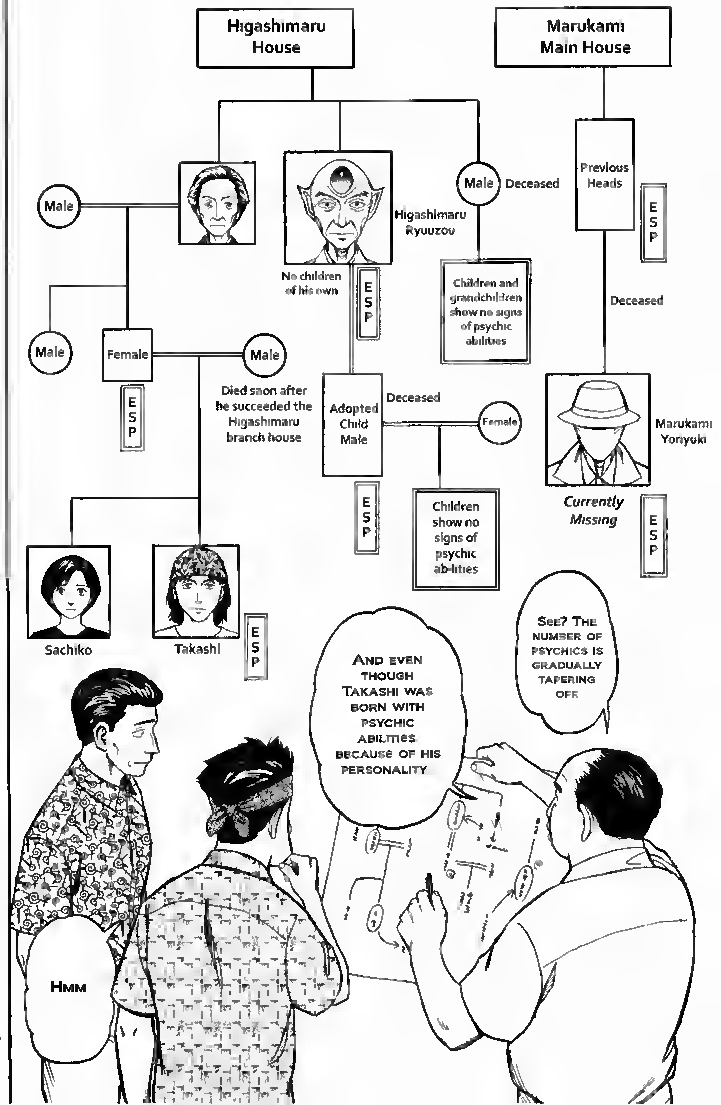
Chapter 18



The Project Scanlations

Ah, so he's the real dono-sama*
His name is Marukami Yoriyuki. If everything had gone as expected he would have become the leader of Marukami Village.
*Roughly Master
Seeing the strength of his powers, it seemed like wishes we that we had nearly given up on might have come true... though we may have burdened him with those dreams.
He'd served as priest at our annual festival rituals since he was 10.
Yoriyuki was born with a natural genius so he stood out even amongst previous heads of the Marukami family's main branch
2
Oi...
It seemed like even our lord had abandoned us. The whole village was crestfallen.
Four years ago, Yoriyuki left the village without warning and disappeared without a trace.
Wishes...?

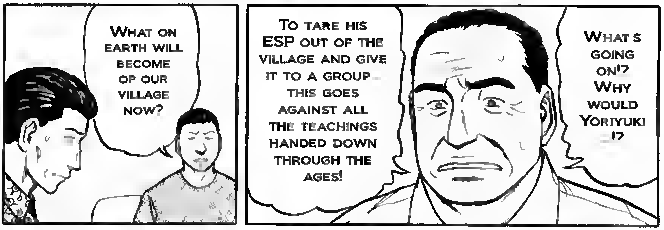
Must also have hands that reach
A priest of Marukami Mountain. In addition to being "one who has opened the window"
What? No wait a secoho
The year before last we had to call a member of the Higashimaru house out of retirement to presioe over the ceremony for us
I see. I see.
Ah is that so?
Aho my grand-uncle. Higashi haru Ryuuzou...
Yori-yuki...
Sometimes psychics born into other families were adopted into our own
But as time goes on the number of those born with "hands that reach" seems gets fewer and fewer.
The Higashimaru house has produced the greatest number of psychics after the Marukami house...
3
And so we're trying to make things easier for you...
A family tree!? My head is starting to hurt
Minamimaru. That's right let's draw a family tree to make it easy for him to uhoer-stand
Our last village meeting was held at the Higashi-maru main house


Higashimaru House
Marukami Main House
Male
Male
Higashimaru Ryuuzou
Deceased
Previous Heads
ESP
No children of his own
ESP
Children and grandchildren show no signs of psychic abilities
Deceased
Male
Female
Male
ESP
Died soon after he succeeded the Higashimaru branch house
Adopted Child Male
Deceased
Female
Marukami Yoriyuki
Currently Missing
ESP
ESP
Children show no signs of psychic abilities
ESP
Sachiko
Takashi
ESP
See? The number of psychics is gradually tapering off
And even though Takashi was born with psychic abilities because of his personality
Hmm

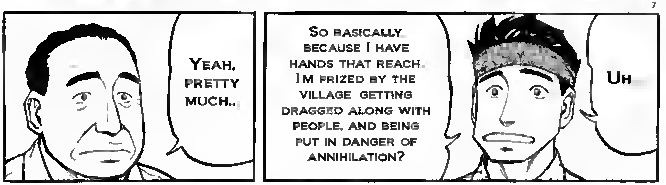
It was at that point Professor Marukami Masami graced our village with his presence
Where Yoriyuki-san left and everyone was depressed
So where were we?
Oh yeah that's right
どどっ
!?
Aha!
N-no that's fine You also treated us really well and all...
About that We apologize for deceiving your seminar group It was inexcusable
.....
.. was about to make me disappear, and then he just left! What was that about?
More importantly this afternoon! Your Marukami Masayori

Whaaaa!?
We have no idea.
Well, actually...
Even though my brother is like that, he obediently listens to everything Yoriyuki says.
Oh yeah...
About why he took my brother with him...
!!
What Takashi and Minamimaru have in common is "hands that reach".
On the other hand, Minamimaru, just because he didn't know you, he...
"Hands that reach" management...
Because they have ESP!?
So basically it's just...

You think they were the same as the ones who have been coming to our village!?
There were two cars there There must have been a number of people apart from Yoriyuki.

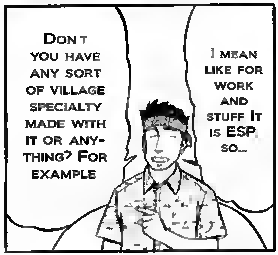

What on earth will become of our village now?
To take his ESP out of the village and give it to a group... this goes against all the teachings handed down through the ages!
What's going on!? Why would Yoriyuki...!?

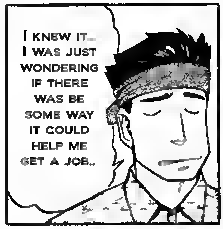
.....


Yeah, pretty much..
So basically, because I have hands that reach... I'm prized by the village getting dragged along with people, and being put in danger of annihilation?
Uh...

In the Warring States period, we sent the Shimadera army 3,000 men strong running with just a few people!
C'mon Minami-maru! Didn't you see Yoriyuki's power this afternoon!? It was terrifying!
So it's the power to drive people crazy..
Ah...
If you join our village, we'll tell you.
No that's okay...
I don't know what you use it for during your Tanabata rituals but...
It's... how do you put it? A gory tale
Yeah I'd heard of that...
There's something I want to ask you guys.
It's only other use is as a weapon.
In the long history of Marukami Village there have been quite a few people born with "hands that reach" right?
Yes?

COME UP WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO USE THEIR ESP!?
DID ANY OF THEM EVER SOMEHOW...

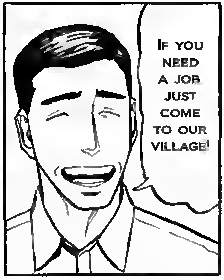

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SORT OF VILLAGE SPECIALTY MADE WITH IT OR ANYTHING? FOR EXAMPLE
I MEAN LIKE FOR WORK AND STUFF IT IS ESP, SO...


I KNEW IT... I WAS JUST WONDERING IF THERE WAS BE SOME WAY IT COULD HELP ME GET A JOB..

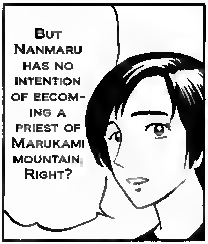
IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE KEPT SECRET AND ALL SO -

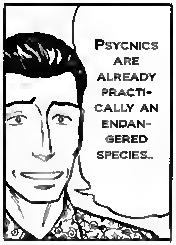
NOTHING I'VE HEARD OF NO...
UH...

BETTER YET STOP USING IT COMPLETELY.. IT'S BEST IF YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT IT

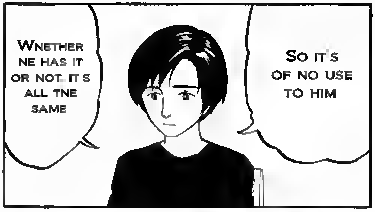

IF YOU NEED A JOB JUST COME TO OUR VILLAGE!

NO WAY! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE KEPT SECRET!

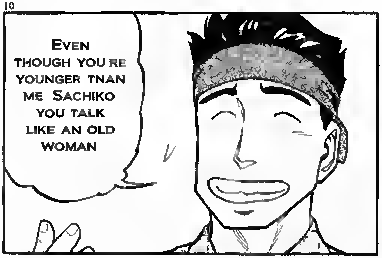

But Nanmaru has no intention of becoming a priest of Marukami mountain. Right?

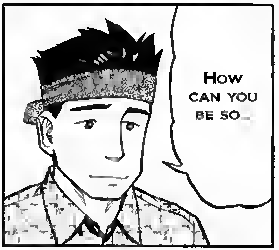

Psycnics are already practically an endangered species..

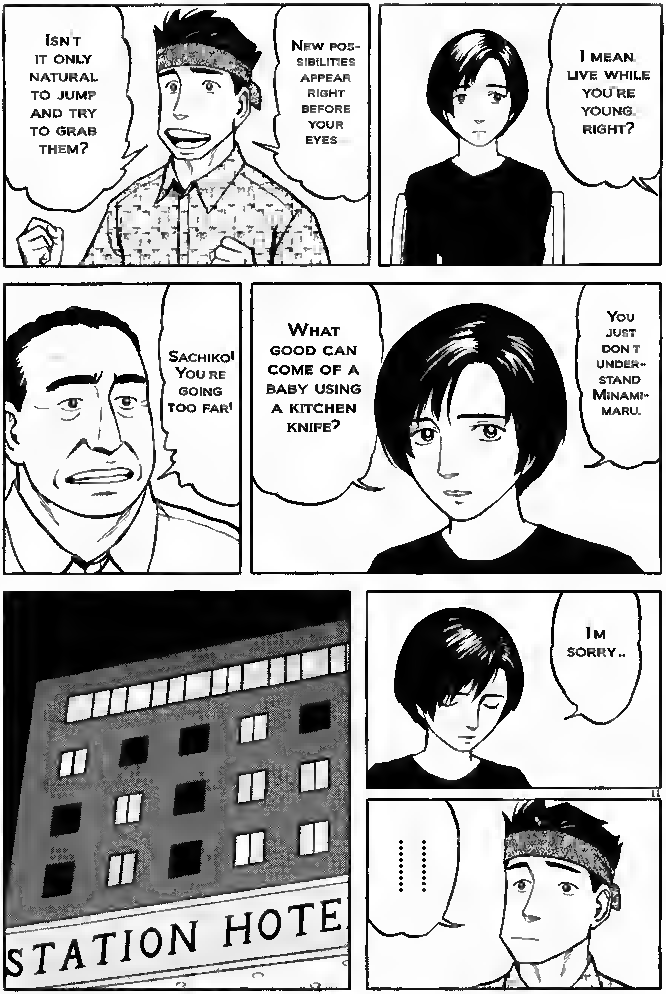
That's too extreme
Sachiko


Whether he has it or not it's all the same
So it's of no use to him

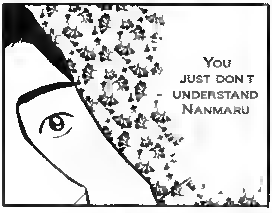
Well, yeah..

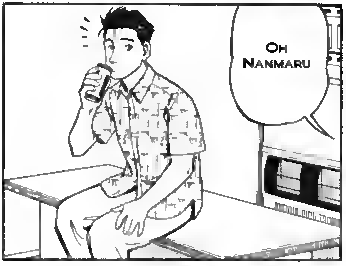

Even though you're younger than me Sachiko you talk like an old woman

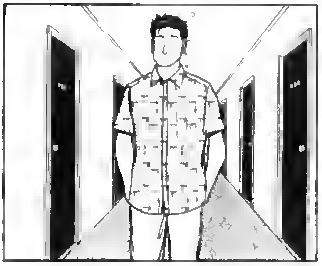

How can you be so..


ISN'T IT ONLY NATURAL TO JUMP AND TRY TO GRAB THEM?
NEW POSSIBILITIES APPEAR RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES
I MEAN, LIVE WHILE YOU'RE YOUNG, RIGHT?
SACHIKO! YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR!
WHAT GOOD CAN COME OF A BABY USING A KITCHEN KNIFE?
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND MINAMI-MARU.
STATION HOTE
I'M SORRY..
.....

I have to say goodbye for now
It seems like Yoriyuki's thought it over anyway
Thank you so much for leading us to Takashi earlier. We're so sorry that you were put in danger as a result of that.
That's okay.
What are you talking about, Minami-maru!?
We've already booked you a room
N-no that's.
It's dark already. Please stay at this hotel
12
I... Is that so? I'm sorry for imposing then
It's nothing, it's nothing.
The money isn't a problem. We can't just let a direct descendant of our lord go like this!
Hum? But that'll cost money.


You just don't understand Nanmaru


Oh Nanmaru



Yeah, sorta...

You can't sleep?

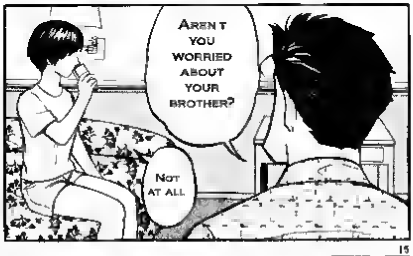
WOULD YOU COME TO MY ROOM?
HUH!?
HUH!? WHA..
I'M SORRY FOR THE WAY I SPOKE EARLIER
THAT'S FINE
AH. I SEE SO THEN. I MEAN. AHAHAHA.
YOU CAN LEAVE WHEN YOU GET TIRED
I JUST THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD TALK
14
I HAVEN'T THANKED YOU PROPERLY YET HAVE I?
HUH?
.....

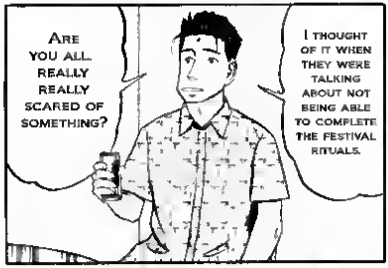
Yoriyuki isn't really one for jokes so—

Thank you for protecting me this afternoon
It was nothing.

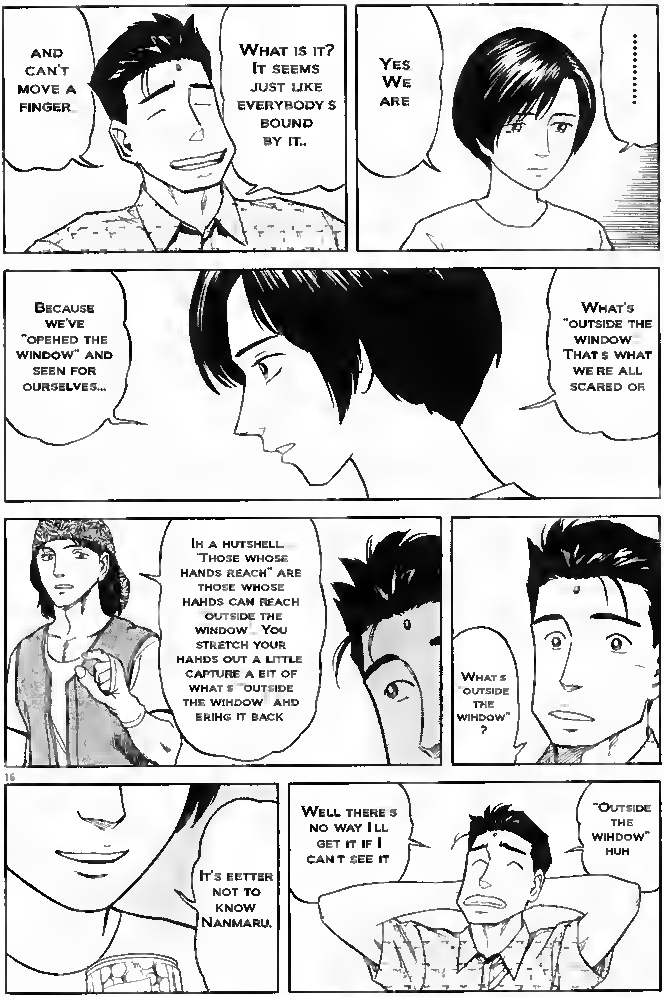
He really was serious about that!?

I don't know if I'll upset you by saying this, but..


Aren't you worried about your brother?
Not at all.

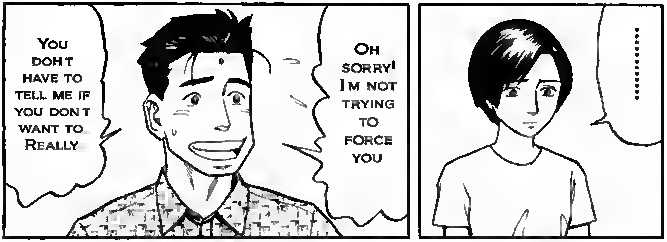

Are you all really really scared of something?
I thought of it when they were talking about not being able to complete the festival rituals.

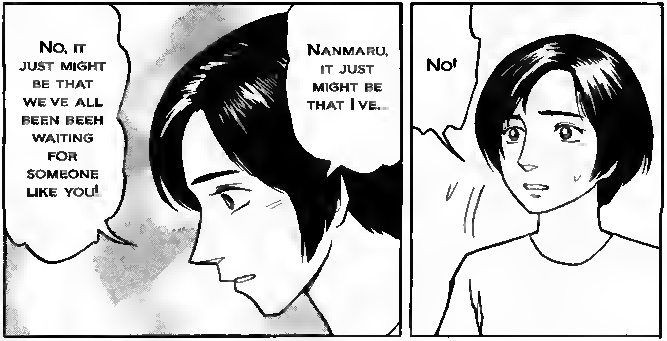
What is it?


AND CAN'T MOVE A FINGER..
WHAT IS IT? IT SEEMS JUST LIKE EVERYBODY'S BOUND BY IT..
YES WE ARE
.....
BECAUSE WE'VE "OPENED THE WINDOW" AND SEEN FOR OURSELVES...
WHAT'S "OUTSIDE THE WINDOW" THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL SCARED OF
IN A NUTSHELL... "THOSE WHOSE HANDS REACH" ARE THOSE WHOSE HANDS CAN REACH OUTSIDE THE WINDOW... YOU STRETCH YOUR HANDS OUT A LITTLE CAPTURE A BIT OF WHAT'S "OUTSIDE THE WINDOW" AND BRING IT BACK
WHAT'S "OUTSIDE THE WINDOW"?
IT'S BETTER NOT TO KNOW NANMARU.
WELL THERE'S NO WAY I'LL GET IT IF I CAN'T SEE IT
"OUTSIDE THE WINDOW" HUH

It's about before ...
Sure
Can I ask you one more thing?
I'm really sorry about that
Telling me to stop using it, telling me to forget about it. Why?
Even though all the other people from the village were happy and making a fuss about my ESP, you were negative about it
Huh?
Would you mind telling me about them?
I probably just got caught up in my personal feelings and unintentionally...
Personal feelings...
I mean, come on. This is no good. Thinking of uses for ESP upsets you

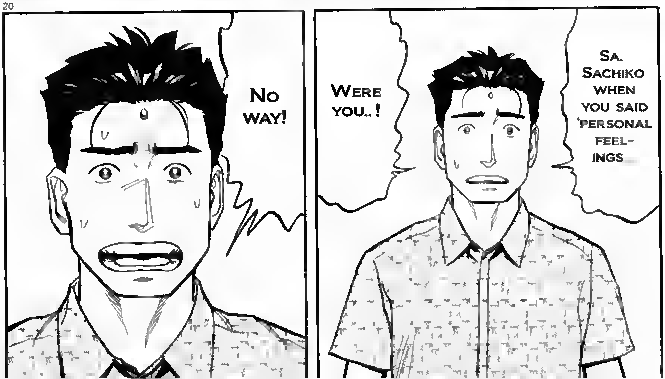
I WANT TO THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES. BUT IT'S USELESS IF I HURT OTHER PEOPLE BY DOING SO.
IT PROBABLY WON'T HAPPEN VERY OFTEN BUT RECENTLY, I JUST HAPPENED TO USE MY ESP TO SAVE SOMEONE.

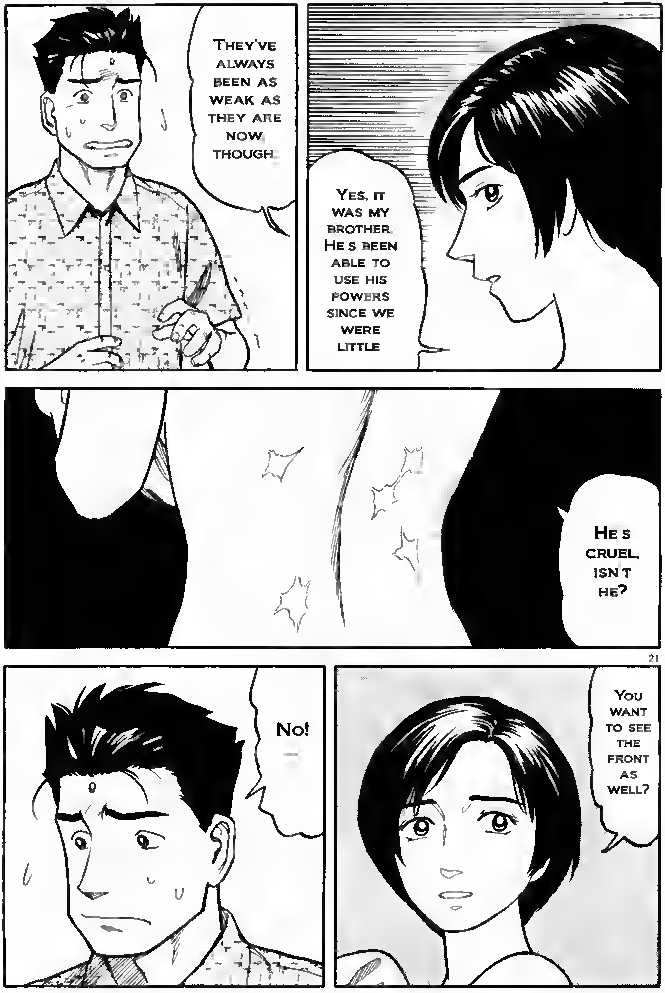

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO. REALLY.
OH SORRY! I'M NOT TRYING TO FORCE YOU
.....

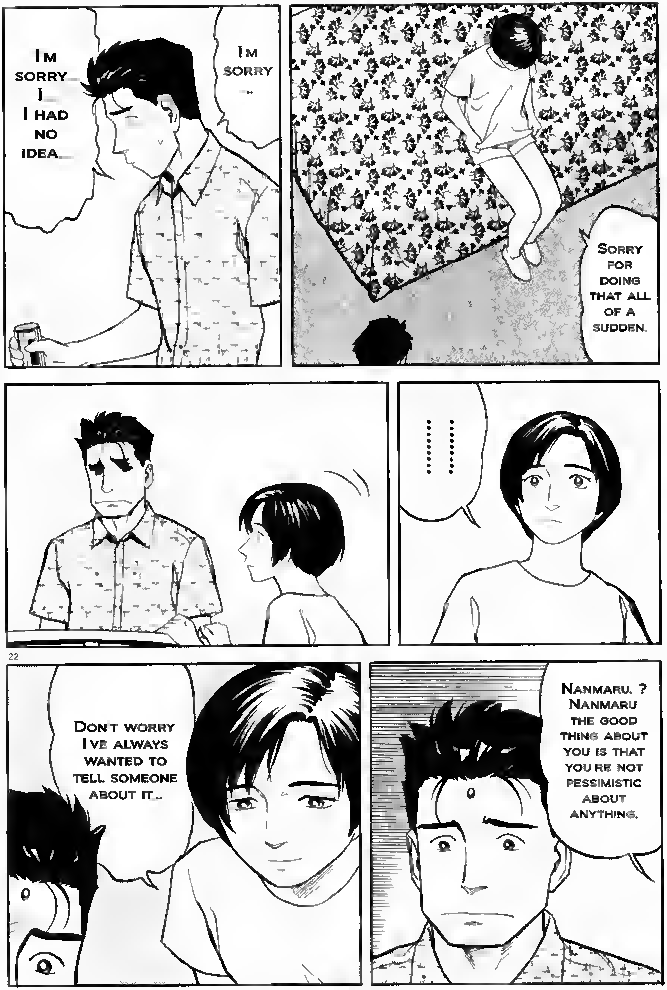

NO, IT JUST MIGHT BE THAT WE'VE ALL BEEN BEEN WAITING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU!
NANMARU, IT JUST MIGHT BE THAT I'VE...
NO!

MAYBE EVEN YORIYUKI CAME TO HATE THE VILLAGE BECAUSE OF THAT!
LIVING IN FEAR JUMPING AT THE SLIGHTEST THING!
HUH?
19
WAH- WAIT!
!!

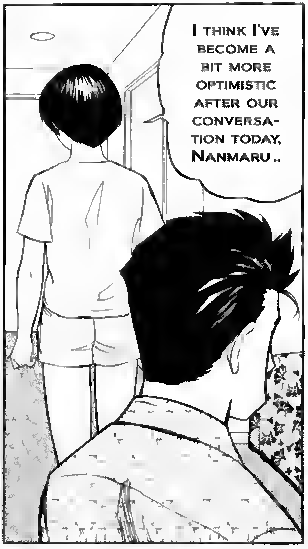
These...
There should be about nine on my back.


No way!
Were you..!
Sa. Sachiko when you said 'personal feel-ings...


They've always been as weak as they are now, though.
Yes, it was my brother. He's been able to use his powers since we were little
He's cruel, isn't he?
21
No!
—
You want to see the front as well?

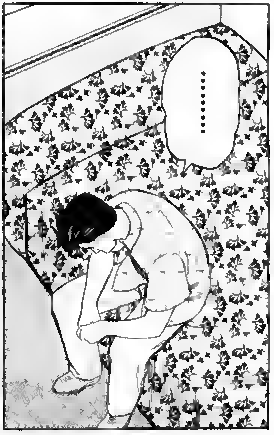

I'm sorry... I... I had no idea...
I'm sorry...
Sorry for doing that all of a sudden.
.....
Don't worry I've always wanted to tell someone about it..
Nanmaru. ? Nanmaru the good thing about you is that you're not pessimistic about anything.

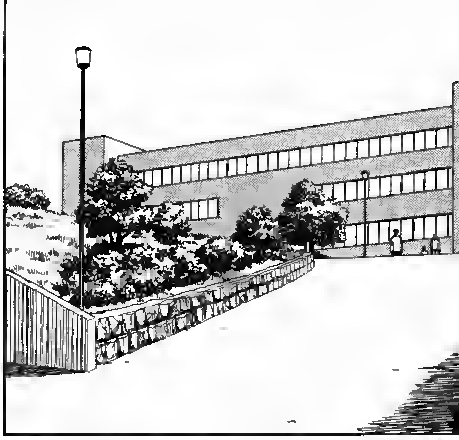
So don't feel sorry for me


I think I've become a bit more optimistic after our conversation today, Nanmaru..
23

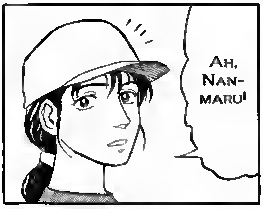
Good-night..

I'm the worst..!
I'm...

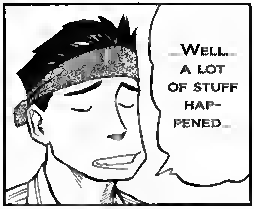

.....

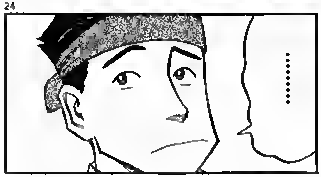


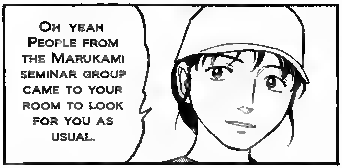
What's wrong? You don't look good at all.

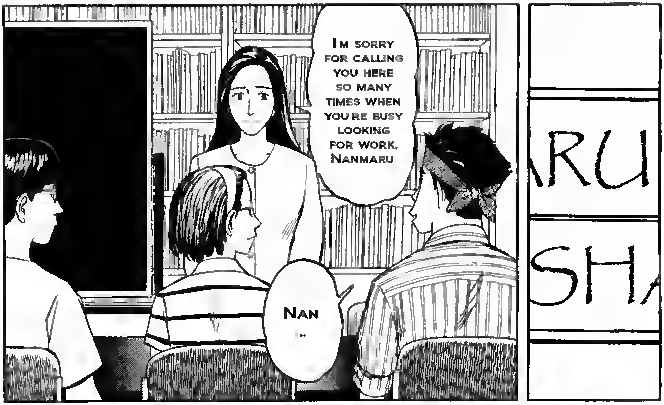

Ah, Nan-maru!

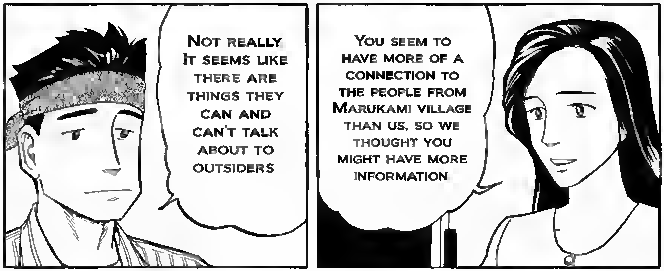
But you just did
I get it I won't mention anything about getting a job.

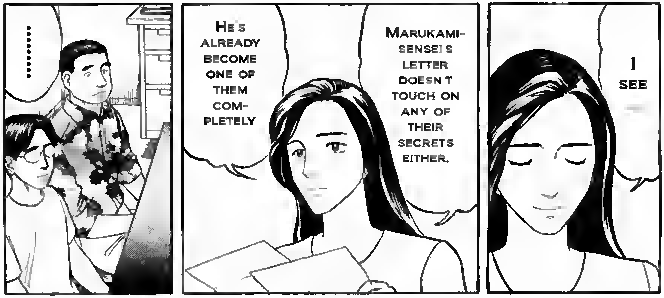

Well... a lot of stuff hap-pened...

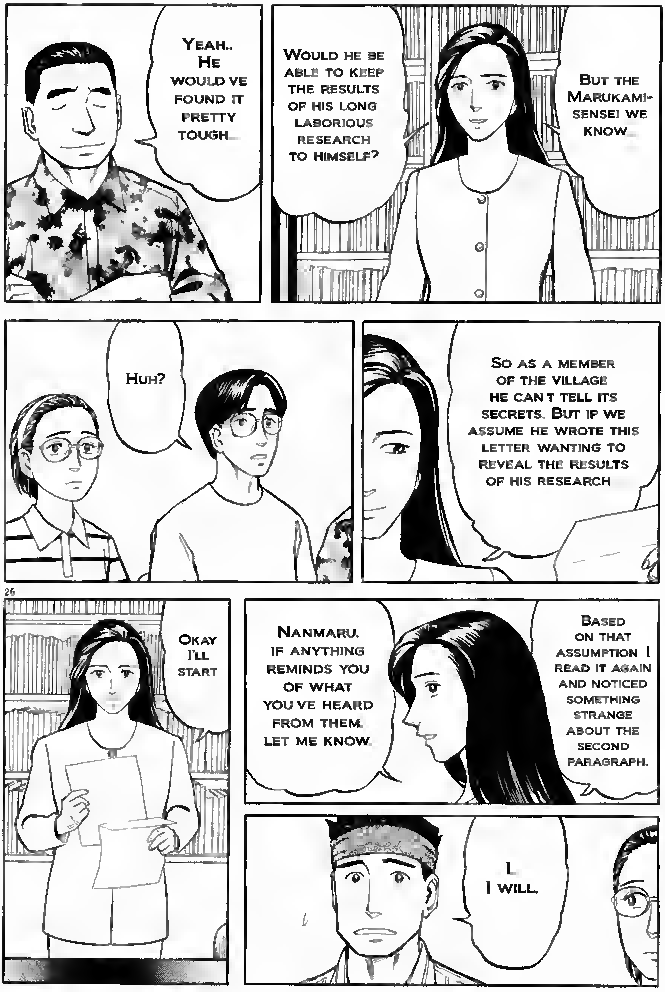

.....

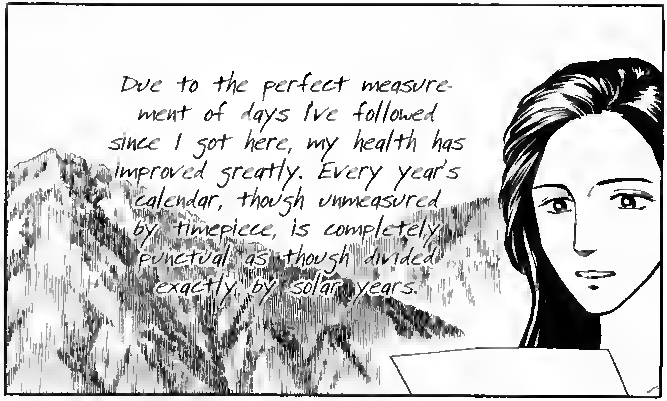

Oh yeah People from the Marukami seminar group came to your room to look for you as usual.

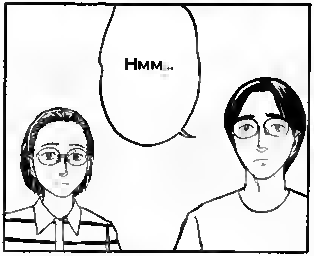

I'm sorry for calling you here so many times when you're busy looking for work, Nanmaru
Nan
..
RU
SH

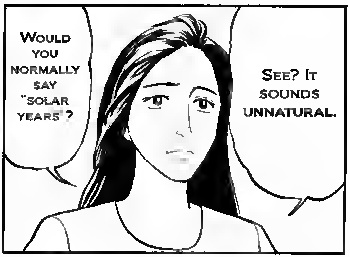

Not really. It seems like there are things they can and can't talk about to outsiders
You seem to have more of a connection to the people from Marukami village than us, so we thought you might have more information


.....
He's already become one of them completely
Marukami-sensei's letter doesn't touch on any of their secrets either.
I see

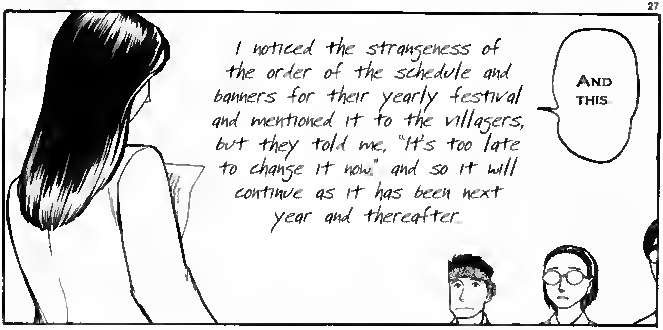

YEAH.. HE WOULD'VE FOUND IT PRETTY TOUGH...
WOULD HE BE ABLE TO KEEP THE RESULTS OF HIS LONG LABORIOUS RESEARCH TO HIMSELF?
BUT THE MARUKAMI-SENSEI WE KNOW...
HUH?
SO AS A MEMBER OF THE VILLAGE HE CAN'T TELL ITS SECRETS. BUT IF WE ASSUME HE WROTE THIS LETTER WANTING TO REVEAL THE RESULTS OF HIS RESEARCH
26
OKAY I'LL START
NANMARU. IF ANYTHING REMINDS YOU OF WHAT YOU'VE HEARD FROM THEM. LET ME KNOW.
BASED ON THAT ASSUMPTION I READ IT AGAIN AND NOTICED SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE SECOND PARAGRAPH.
I... I WILL.


Due to the perfect measurement of days I've followed since I got here, my health has improved greatly. Every year's calendar, though unmeasured by timepiece, is completely punctual as though divided exactly by solar years.

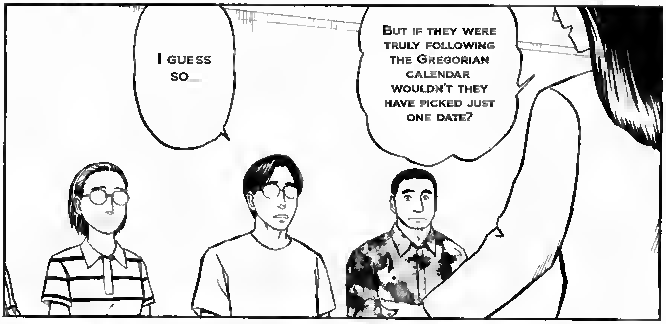

HMM...

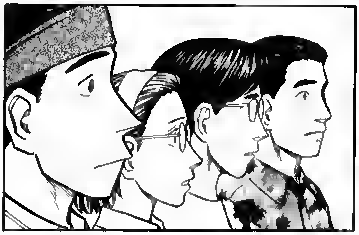

WOULD YOU NORMALLY SAY "SOLAR YEARS"?
SEE? IT SOUNDS UNNATURAL.

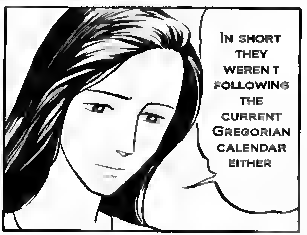
27


I noticed the strangeness of the order of the schedule and banners for their yearly festival and mentioned it to the villagers, but they told me, "It's too late to change it now," and so it will continue as it has been next year and thereafter.
AND THIS

.....
Not at all...
Don't you get it!?
First the "solar calendar" bit...
"Though unmeasured by timepiece, it's timed perfectly in accordance with the solar calendar."
The first thing that came to me was what we found out about the dates of their old Tanabata festivals.
28
Converted to Gregorian calendar dates, the festival dates we found fell on the 18th or 19th, and just one on the 17th of the month. Three different dates.
Oh, you mean how they seemed to follow the Gregorian calendar before it had even come into use?
Yeah, that's true...


I guess so...
But if they were truly following the Gregorian calendar wouldn't they have picked just one date?

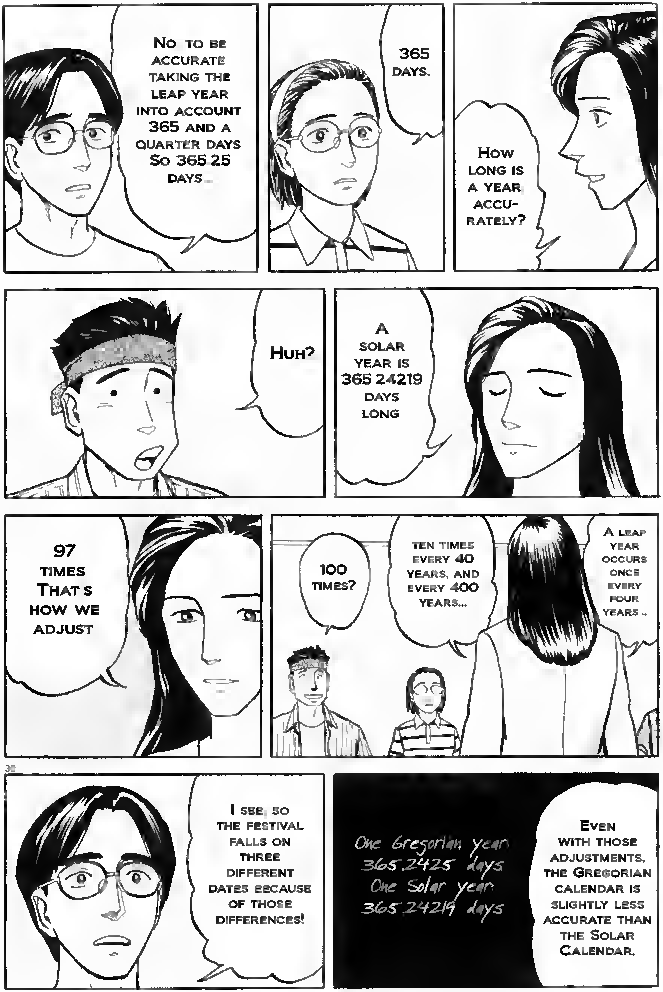


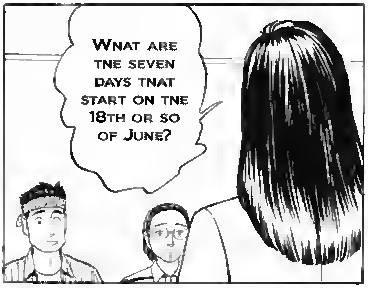

In short they weren't following the current Gregorian calendar either

.....

They were going by solar years!

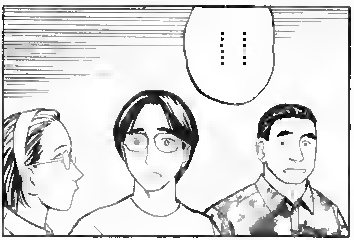
.....?

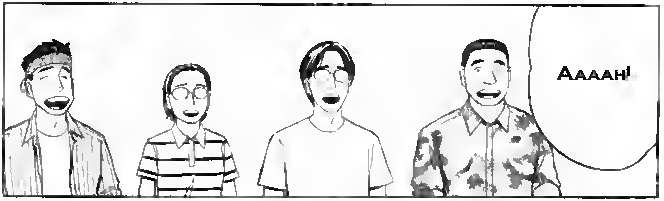

No to be accurate taking the leap year into account 365 and a quarter days So 365 25 days...
365 days.
How long is a year accurately?
Huh?
A solar year is 365 24219 days long
97 times That's how we adjust
100 times?
Ten times every 40 years, and every 400 years...
A leap year occurs once every four years...
I see, so the festival falls on three different dates because of those differences!
One Gregorian year: 365.2425 days
One Solar year: 365.24219 days
Even with those adjustments, the Gregorian calendar is slightly less accurate than the Solar Calendar.


WHAT ARE THE SEVEN DAYS THAT START ON THE 18TH OR SO OF JUNE?

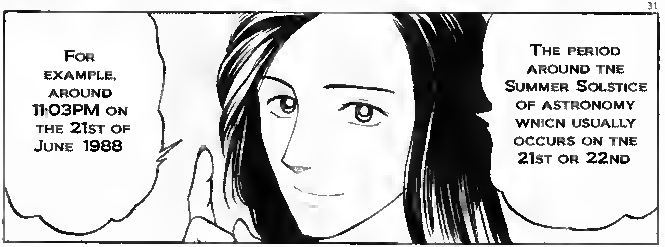
SO!
EXACTLY!

THE SUMMER SOLSTICE!

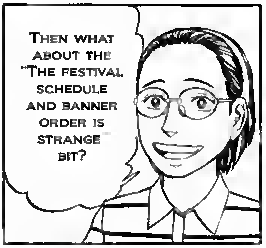

……

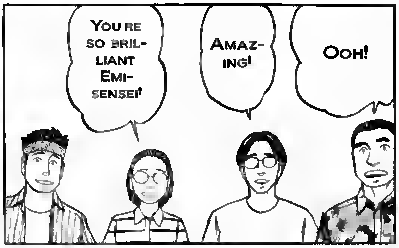

AAAAH!

31

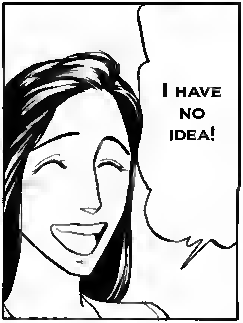

FOR EXAMPLE, AROUND 11:03PM ON THE 21ST OF JUNE 1988
THE PERIOD AROUND THE SUMMER SOLSTICE OF ASTRONOMY WHICH USUALLY OCCURS ON THE 21ST OR 22ND

In other words the Marukami village festival that's been held since the olden days.
Takes place over a seven-day period comprised of the day the very moment of Summer Solstice occurs on and the three days before and after it!


Then what about the "The festival schedule and banner order is strange bit?


You're so brilliant Emi-sensei!
Amazing!
Ooh!

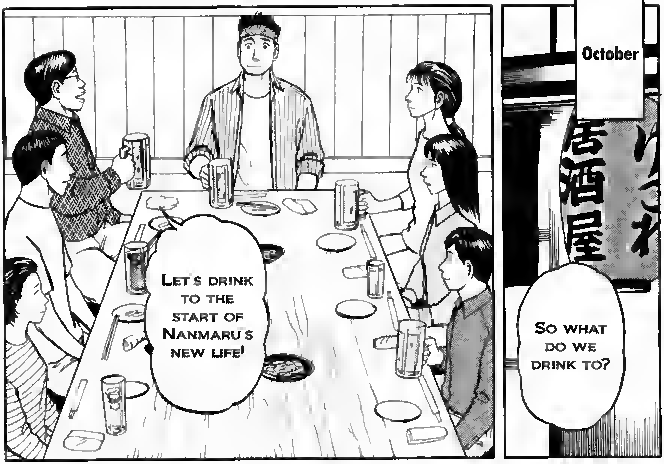
Wha-!

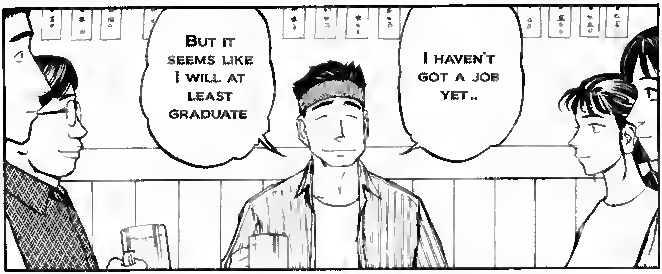

I have no idea!

Chapter XIX:

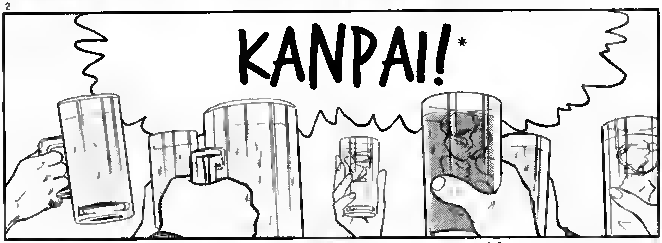
DREAM OF MAGPIES

Hollow Leg Translations





2

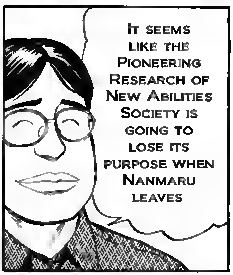


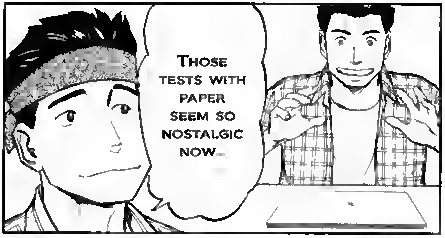
*A TOAST LIKE CHEERS

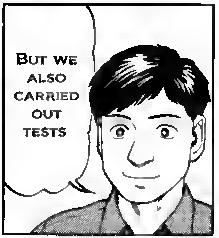
CONGRATULATIONS, CLUB LEADER!

CAN WE REALLY CALL IT HAVING A PURPOSE? ALL WE DO IS GATHER IN THE CLUBROOM AND TALK OVER TEA ANYWAY...
TRUE

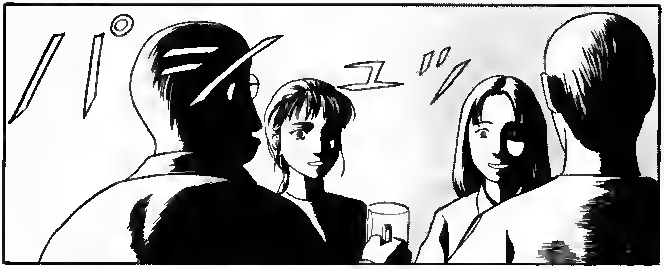
YEAH. HE IS OUR ONLY ESPER.

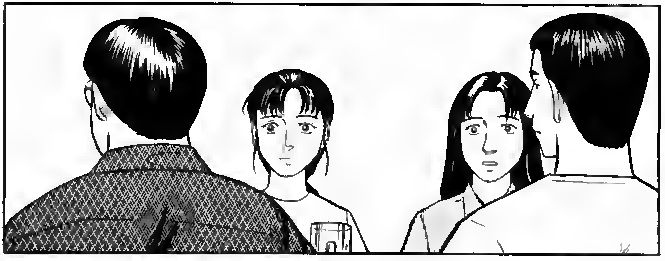

IT SEEMS LIKE THE PIONEERING RESEARCH OF NEW ABILITIES SOCIETY IS GOING TO LOSE ITS PURPOSE WHEN NANMARU LEAVES

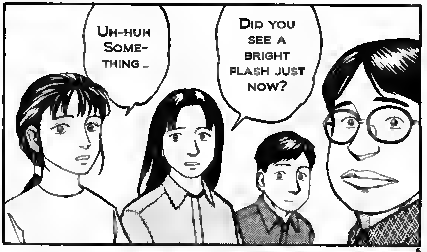

THOSE TESTS WITH PAPER SEEM SO NOSTALGIC NOW...


BUT WE ALSO CARRIED OUT TESTS

I NEVER TOLD TNESE GUYS ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
OH CRAP! I REALLY MADE ONE!
UH, YEAN..
SENPAI, AREN T YOU GOING TO DRINK?
WHAT SNOULD I DO?
I HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET


パシ
ユッ




Uh-huh Some-thing...
Did you see a bright flash just now?

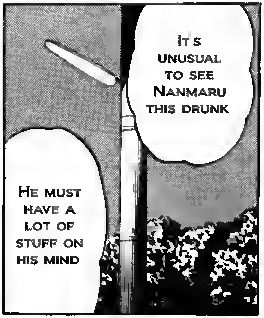
It's probably just the lighting.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BECOME IN THE FUTURE?
HEY GUYS...
MY LIFE AS A STUDENT IS ENDING...
...MY FUTURE...
HUH?
I WANT TO GET A JOB AND KEEP IT.
IS THAT ALL?
NO. WELL, I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT EVERYONE WOULD DO.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SENPAI?

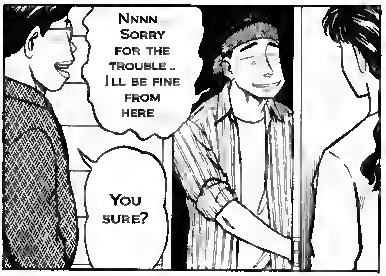
I'm in no position to make demands but I'd at least like to work somewhere that won't go out of business.
It'd be great if I got a lot of time off too
I'd like to work somewhere where the pay is good.
At this rate, Japan is..
sigh
.....
.....
AHAHAHA-HAHAHAHA!!!

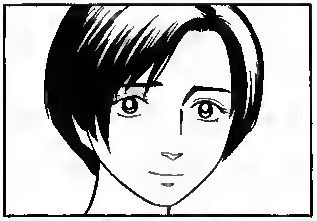
At least you have ESP...
Good luck finding a job, Senpai!
Ah... I couldn't tell them...
Useless ESP...
Useless..
Waiting for you...
No, it just might be that we've all been waiting for someone like you
Nanmaru, it just might be that I've

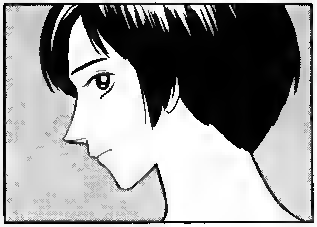
UGH
ALRIGHT HERE WE ARE

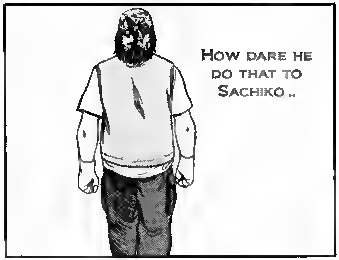

IT'S UNUSUAL TO SEE NANMARU THIS DRUNK
HE MUST HAVE A LOT OF STUFF ON HIS MIND

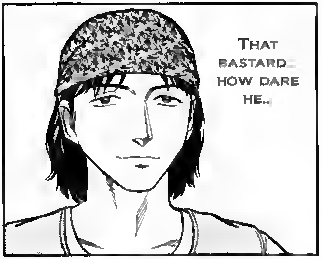
YEAH.. THANKS..
MAKE SURE YOU LOCK THE DOOR OKAY?


NNNN SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.. I'LL BE FINE FROM HERE
YOU SURE?

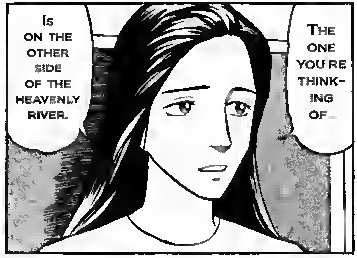





How dare he do that to Sachiko..

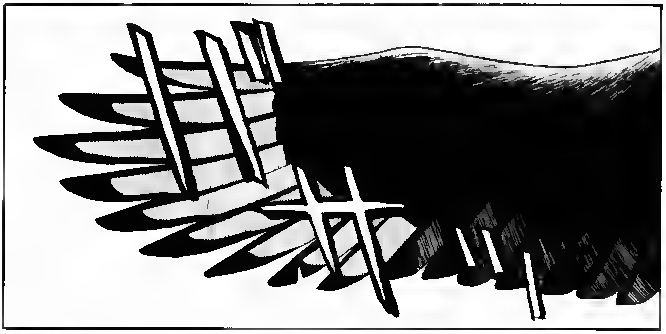

That bastard... how dare he..

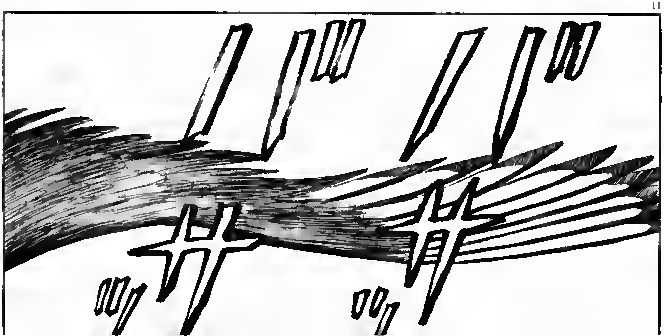
Huh...?


Is on the other side of the heavenly river.
The one you're thinking of...

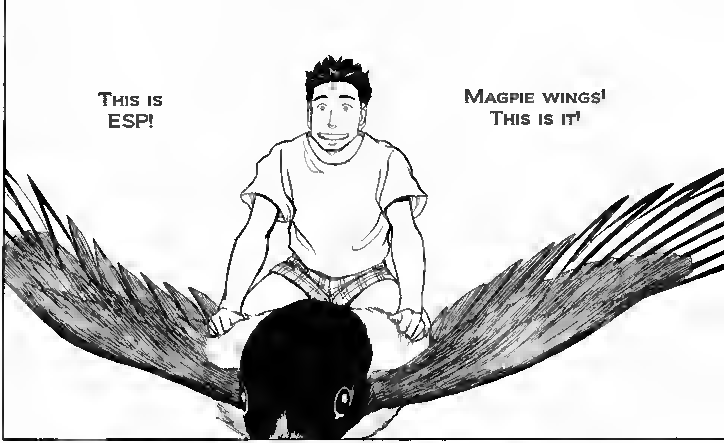
That bridge was made of magpie wings

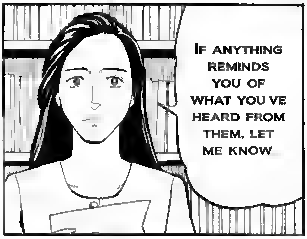
A bridge was built for Kengyuu and Orihime to meet

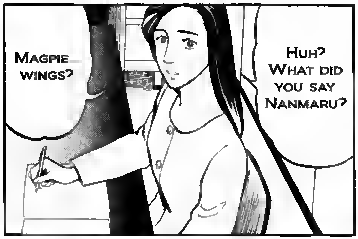




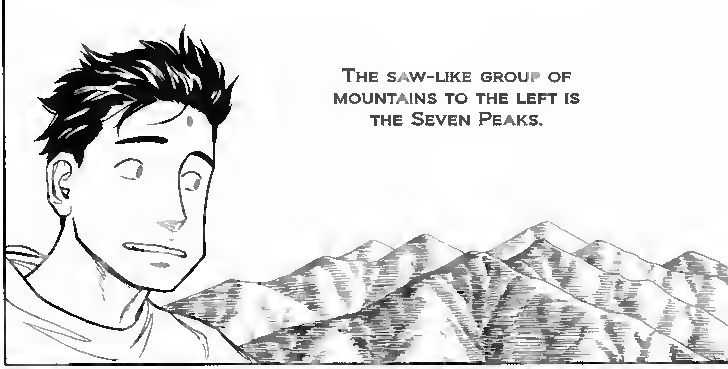
I have gained magpie wings!
Magpie wings!
To cross any river with a single leap!

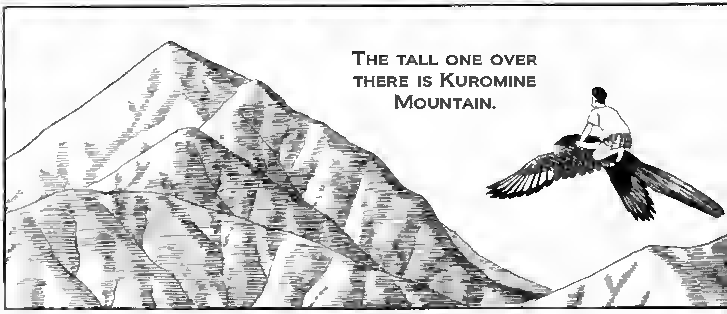

THIS IS ESP!
MAGPIE WINGS! THIS IS IT!

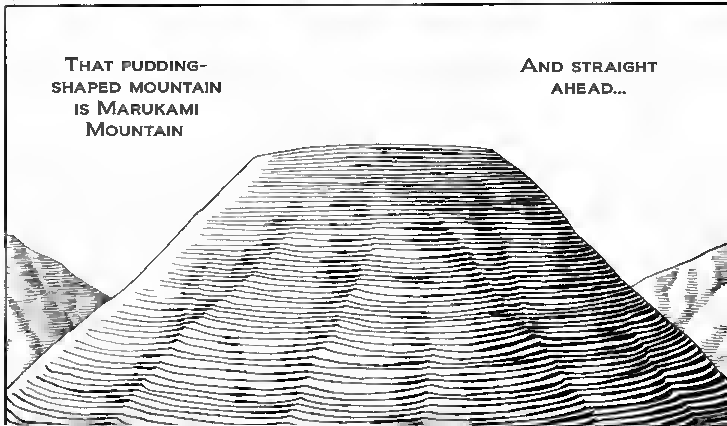

IF ANYTHING REMINDS YOU OF WHAT YOU'VE HEARD FROM THEM, LET ME KNOW

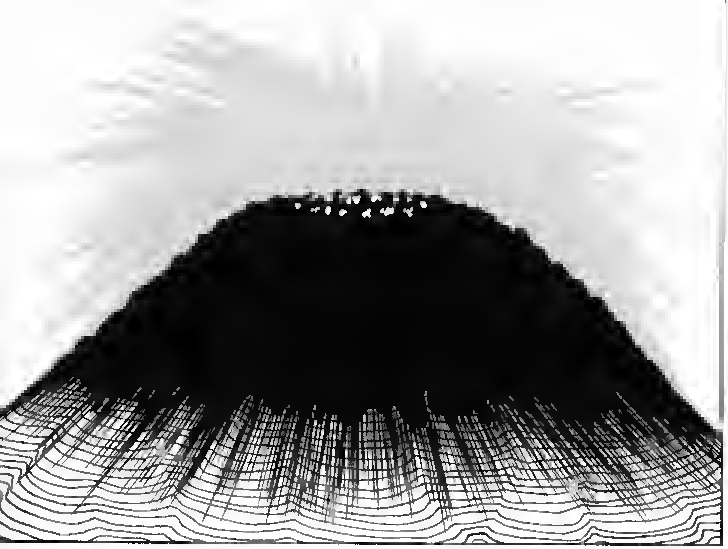

MAGPIE WINGS?
HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY NANMARU?

Hello, 400,000 yen!
It took six months to make!

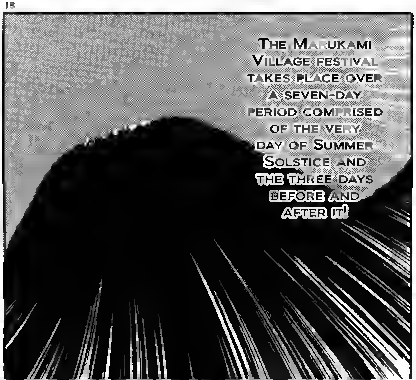

The saw-like group of mountains to the left is the Seven Peaks.

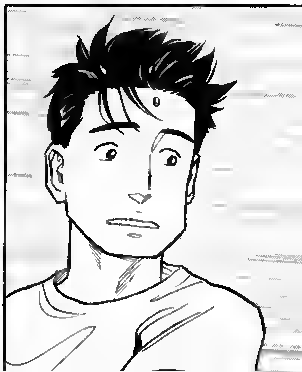

The tall one over there is Kuromine Mountain.


That pudding-shaped mountain is Marukami Mountain
And straight ahead...



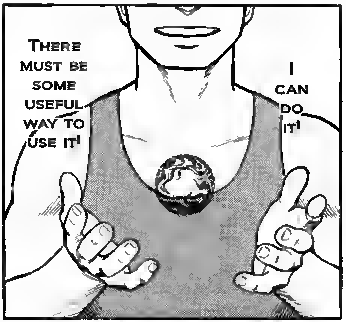
17


The Matsukami Village festival takes place over a seven-day period comprised of the very day of Summer Solstice and the three days before and after it!

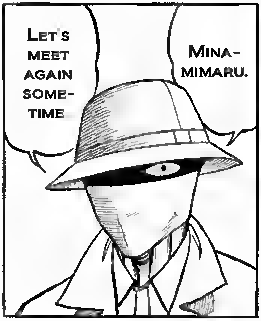


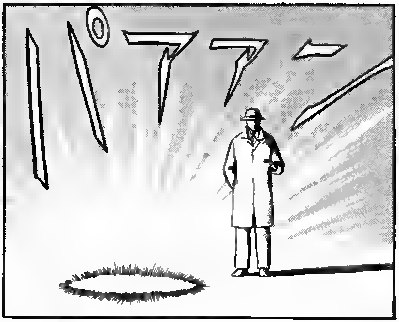
We may have been waiting...
For someone just like you.

It'll wipe out anything!
Look!


There must be some useful way to use it!
I can do it!

Is he going to throw that at me!?
N-no way... Is he going to...

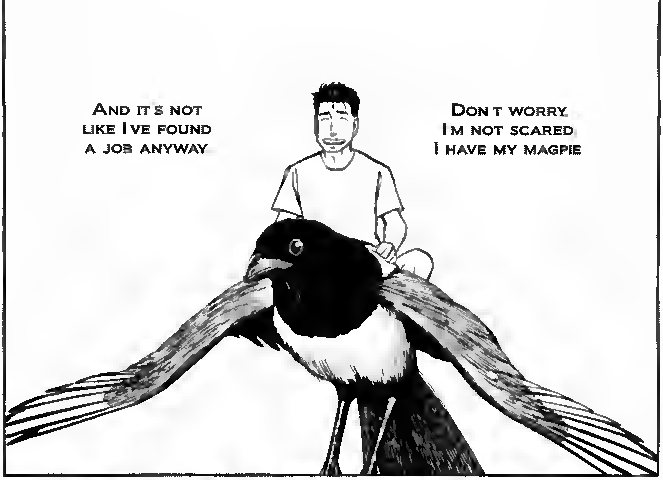

Let's meet again sometime.
Mina-mimaru.

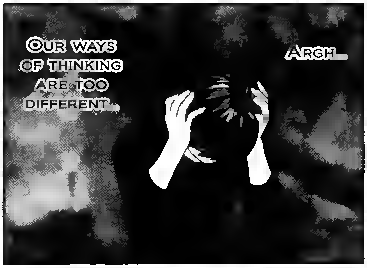


I'M HERE SACHIKO
SACHIKO...

I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING, HAVEN'T I?
DON'T YOU MUSTN'T COME ANY CLOSER...
HUH ?

From here onwards is "outside the window".

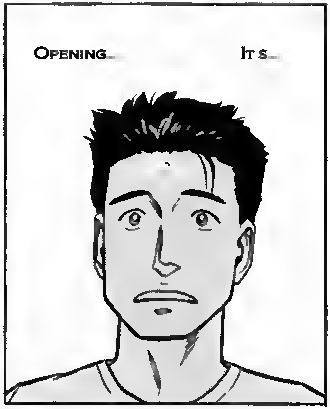

And it's not like I've found a job anyway
Don't worry. I'm not scared I have my magpie

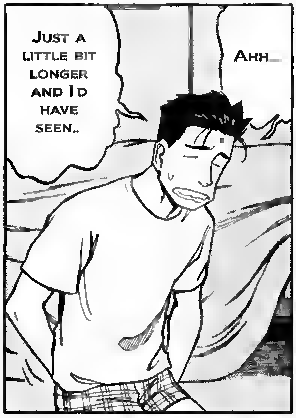

Our ways of thinking are too different...
Argh...

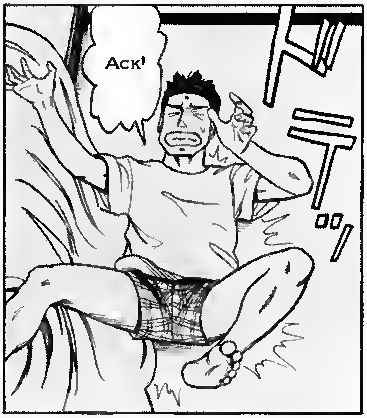
.....

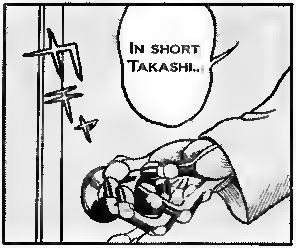
Ah...
The window?

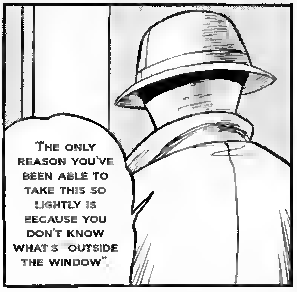
Wah!

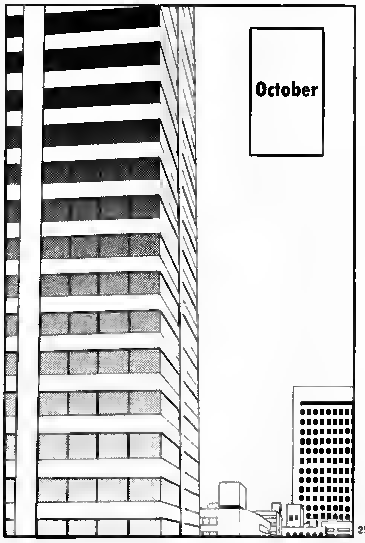

Opening...
It s...

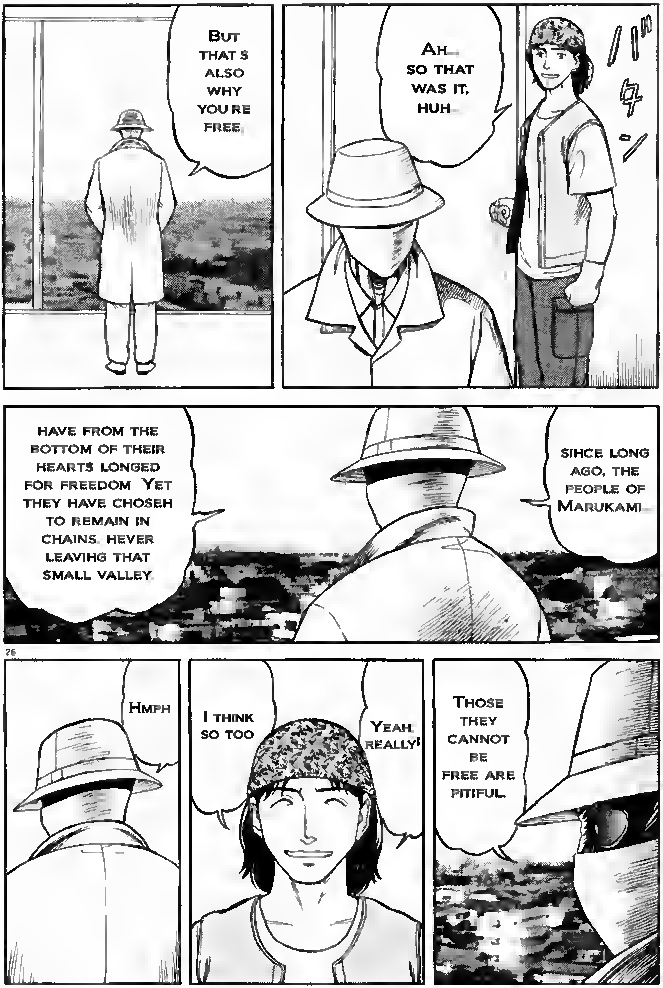

Just a little bit longer and I'd have seen..
Ahh...


Ack!


In short Takashi..

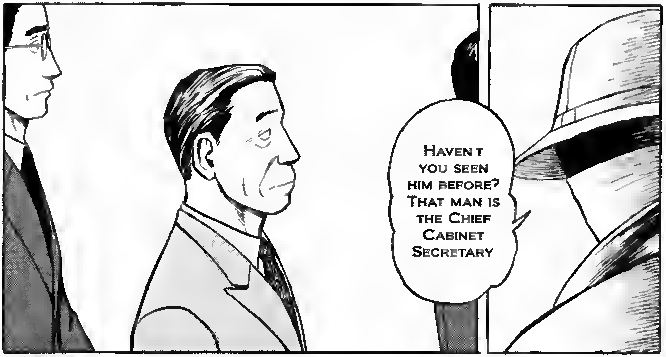

The only reason you've been able to take this so lightly is because you don't know what's "outside the window".


October

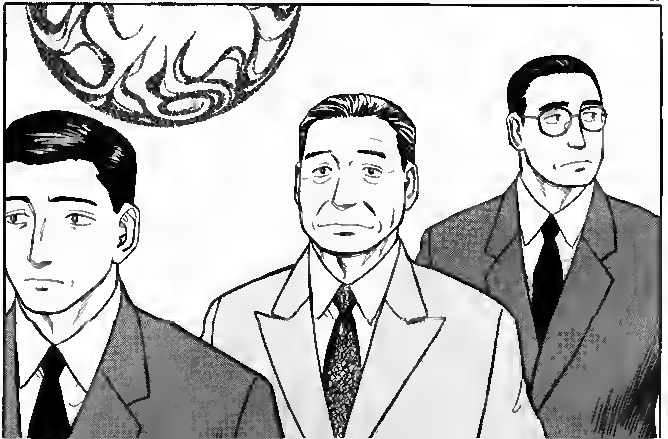

But that's also why you're free.
Ah... so that was it, huh...
Since long ago, the people of Marukami have from the bottom of their hearts longed for freedom. Yet they have chosen to remain in chains. Never leaving that small valley.
Those they cannot be free are pitiful.
Yeah, really!
I think so too
Hmph

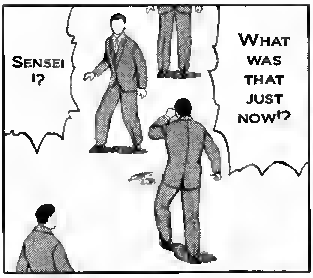
?
For work?
It has large windows That's useful.
By the way what up with this? The view from this room is amazing
No that was just..
Aha-ha
It's a bit like your Gouger thing
Not today It's a... hobby? Well, some sort of recreation
Oh?
There's a person I just can't forgive
Look He's here
Who?
He steps on people's hearts and toys with their emotions. And then he acts like nothing happened

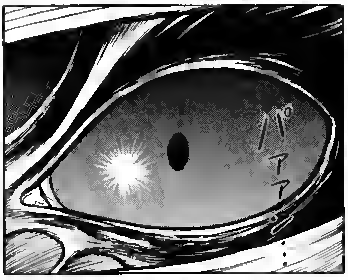
!
Oh an important-looking person got down
That car over there? It's a bit far isn't it?
Yes! Get him!
I get it! It's that important-looking person! The guy you can't forgive!
I create one outside the window like this..
Ah! It's outside the window "outside the window"!
28
No, that's not him This guy has nothing to do with me Take a good look at his face.
Huh?


Haven't you seen him before? That man is the Chief Cabinet Secretary

Um...
Eh!?
But Then...




Sensei !?
What was that just now!?



Huh? Where did he go?

So I want to show that the festival. that everything is meaning-less now

Hun ..?

Depending on how I do it I can even throw society into chaos.
And so I paw at the ground to relieve myself of stress. And I change the world a little
And still he feigns igno-rance.

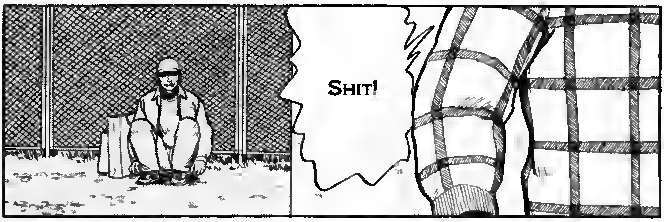
Chapter XX

IT SEEMS LIKE A NEGATIVE

The Project Scanlations

November
Did you see a bright flash just now?
Probably just lightning.

THIEF!
HUH? WHERE'S MY CAR!?

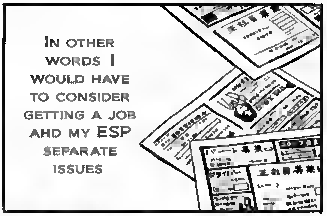

SHIT!

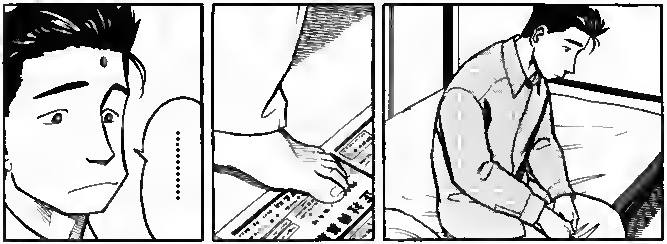
3

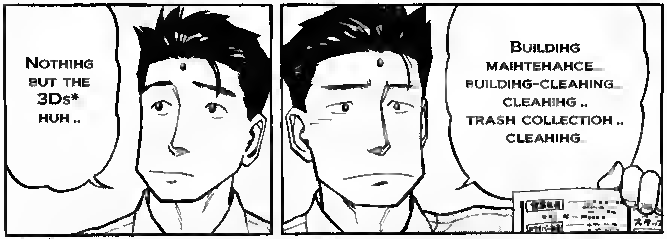
IT JUST DISAP-PEARED
YOUR CAR WASN'T STOLEN

.....
DISAP-
PEAR...
ERASE..
The same month...
CAN'T SAY I'VE HEARD OF ONE..
A CONSTRUCTIVE USE FOR ESP? HMM..
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE KEPT SECRET SO...
I'LL HAVE YOU DISAPPEAR

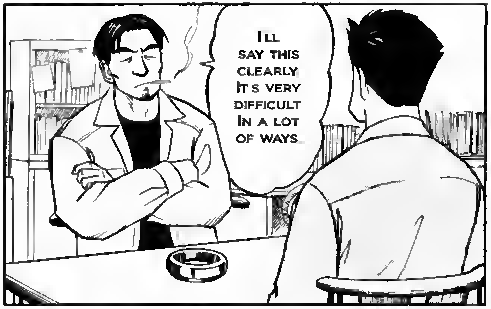
It makes stuff disappear so of course it seems negative! That doesn't mean you have to be pessimistic about it!
Why are they so pessimistic!?
Argh!
5
I have to think positively!
She's right! She's completely right!
Nanmaru. Nanmaru, the good thing about you is that you can't think negatively of anything
Argh! I can't think of anything!
Help make it disappear
Make a ball, erase stuff
Something useful to get rid of
Make it disappear







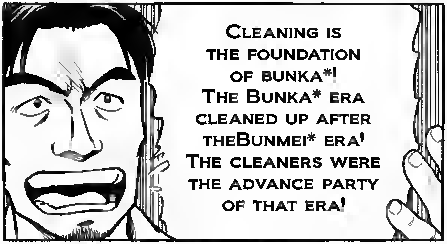
* THE THREE DS – DIRTY DANGEROUS AND DEMEANING



Complete Building Management

Company I

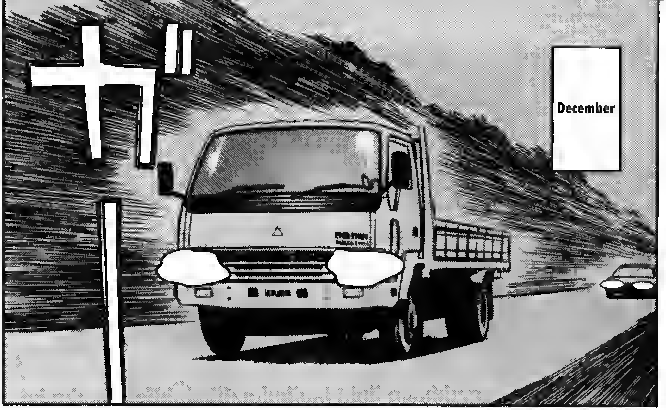
7

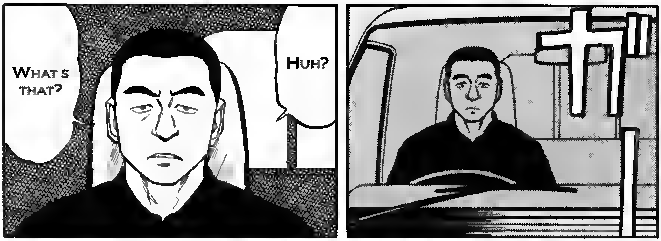

Cleaning is the foundation of Bunka*! The Bunka* era cleaned up after theBunmei* era! The cleaners were the advance party of that era!

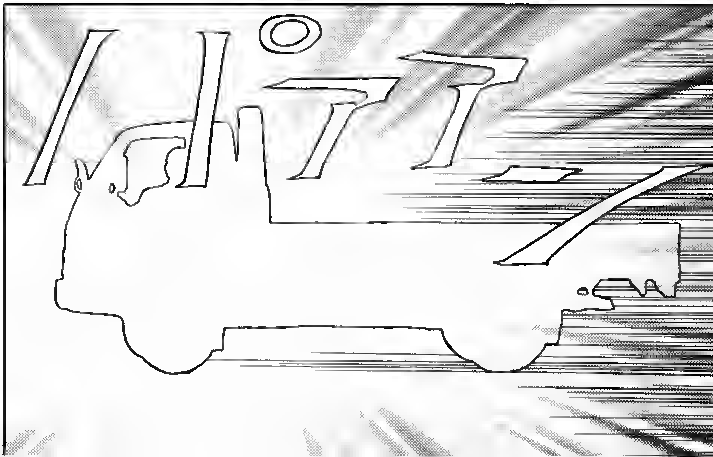
*Bunka - culture Bunmei - civilization. Both are Japanese era names The Bunka era was 1807 - 1817 and the Bunmei era 1469 - 1486

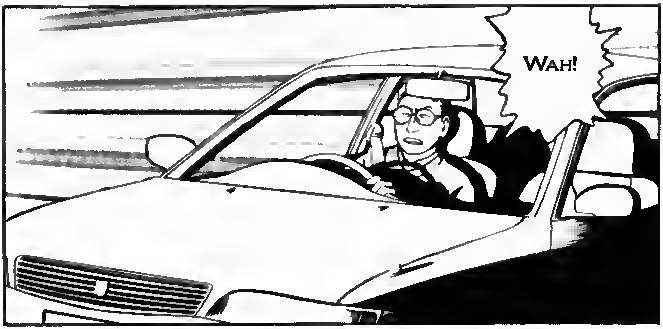
And as a cleaner you must discover how to turn the great negative of filth back into a neutral!
.....
Uh Positivity eliminates the negative right?
Exactly!
Under-stand?
In other words the power of positivity must be born in you!
Ah manager
Huh?
Un no something just sprung up
By the way what happened to your forehead? Are you injured?
Are you Minami-maru?
An sorry for keeping you waiting

HAHA... LATER THEN.
I WAS JUST UH EXPLAINING THE BUSINESS TO HIM.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
EXCUSE ME BUT WHO WAS THAT PERSON?
WELL. SHALL WE START THE INTERVIEW?
.....
AH... I SEE...
HE'S WORKED HERE PART TIME EVER SINCE HE GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY
OOSHITA. A PART-TIMER HE'S BEEN WITH US FOR QUITE A WHILE
UH NO IT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT...
BY THE WAY. IS THAT AN INJURY ON YOUR FOREHEAD?


December

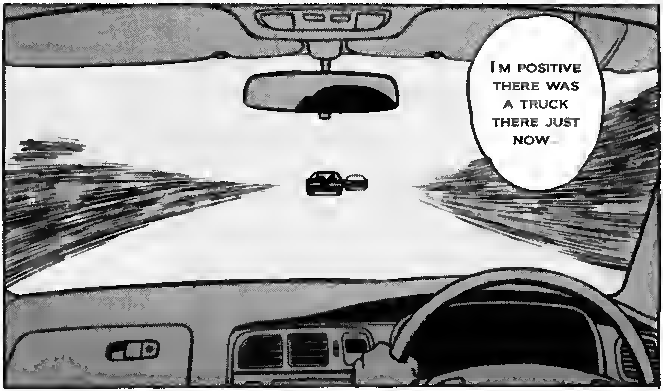

What's that?
Huh?

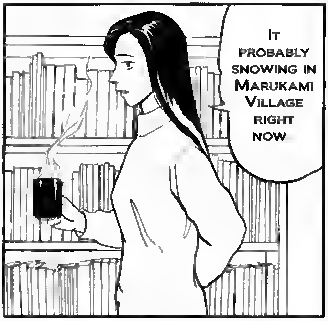


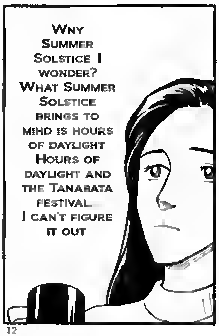

WAH!

HUH?

WHAT WAS THAT!?


I'M POSITIVE THERE WAS A TRUCK THERE JUST NOW...




Wny Summer Solstice I wonder? What Summer Solstice brings to mind is hours of daylight Hours of daylight and the Tanabata festival I can't figure it out

Today is Winter Solstice. Marukami Village s Tanabata festival takes place during Summer Solstice. tne exact opposite of ndw

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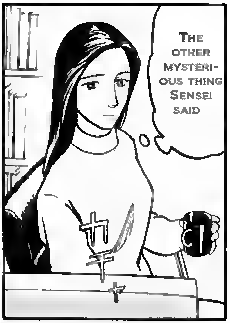
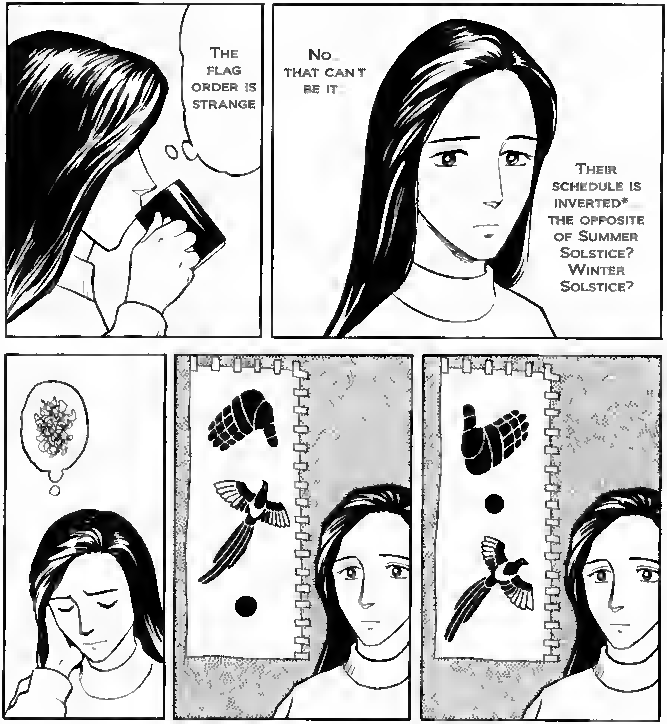
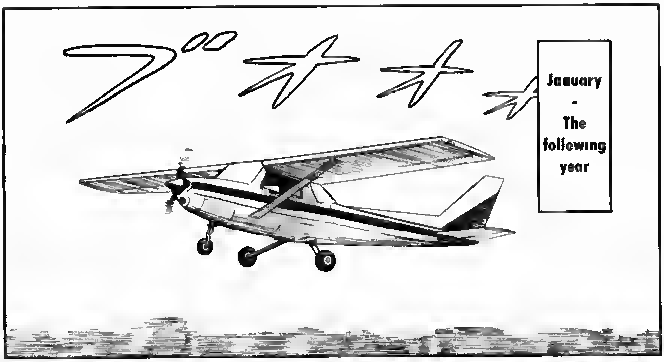
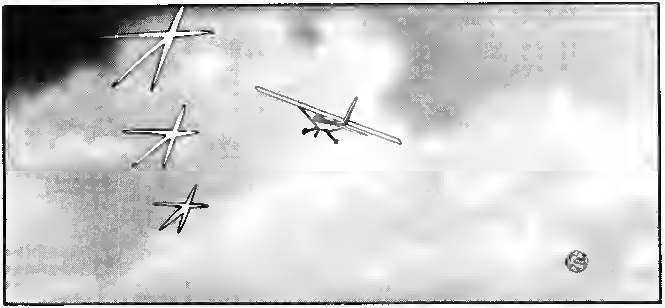
"I noticed the strangeness of the order of the schedule and banners for their yearly festival..."

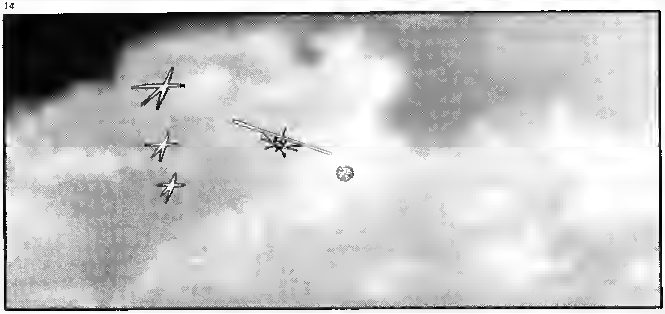


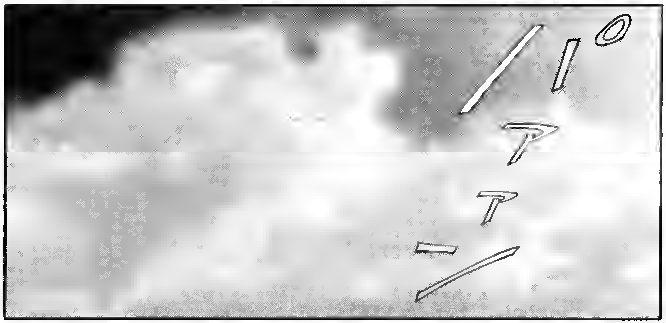
*The word translated as strangeness earlier can also mean inversion

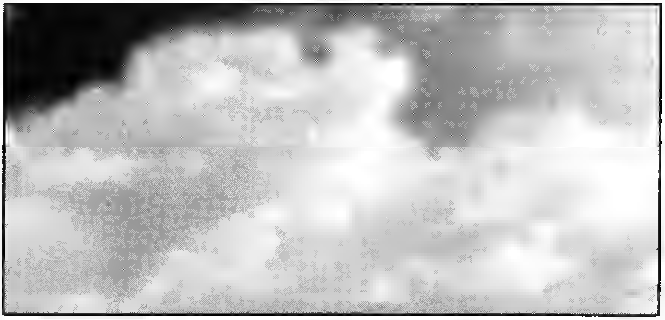

The flag order is strange
No... that can't be it
Their schedule is inverted* the opposite of Summer Solstice? Winter Solstice?
I wish I could see you...
Maru-kami-sensei!
I have no idea!


January
-
The
following
year

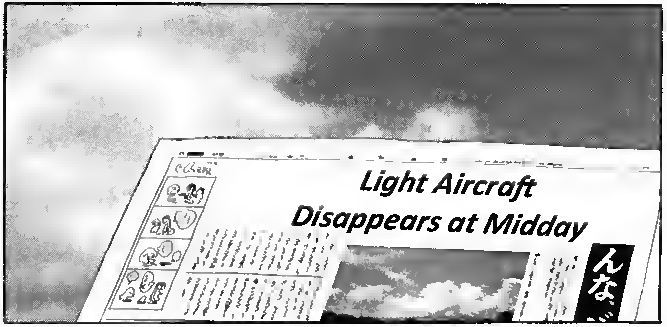


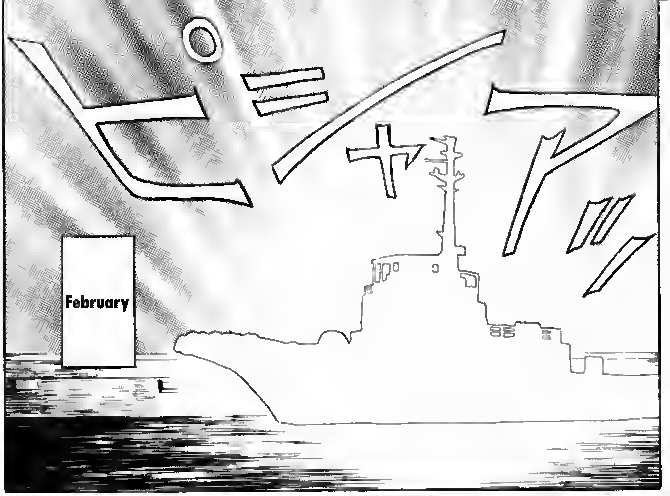


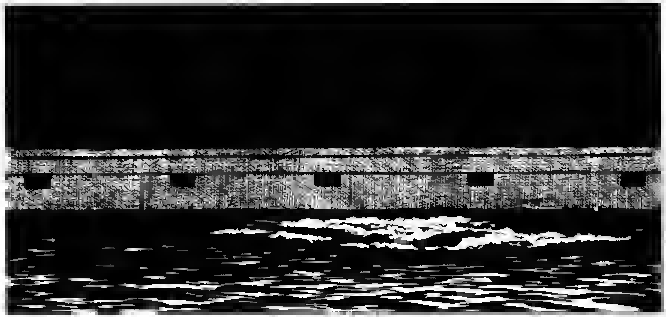




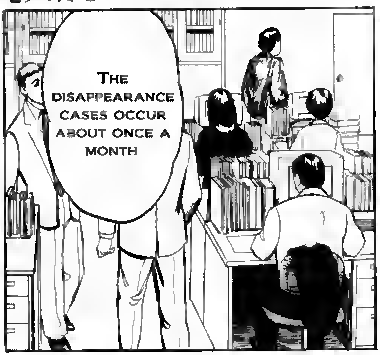
15



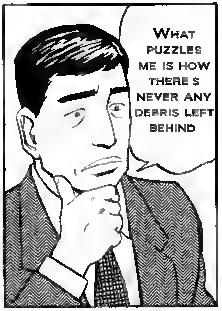


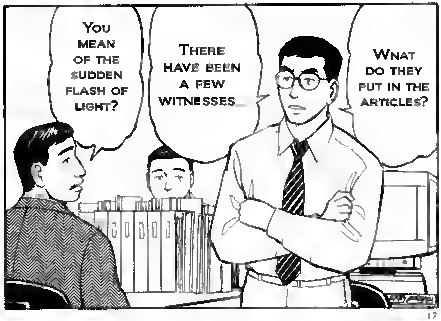


16

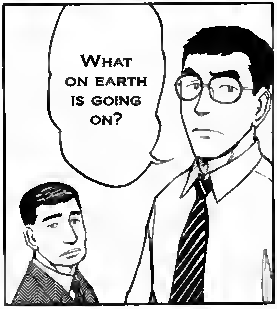

The disappearance cases occur about once a month

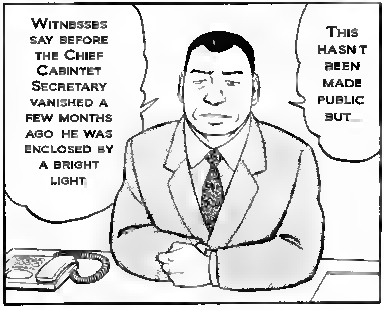
At a certain newspaper company

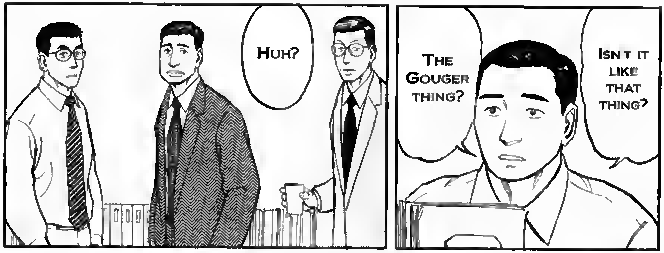

What puzzles me is how there's never any debris left behind

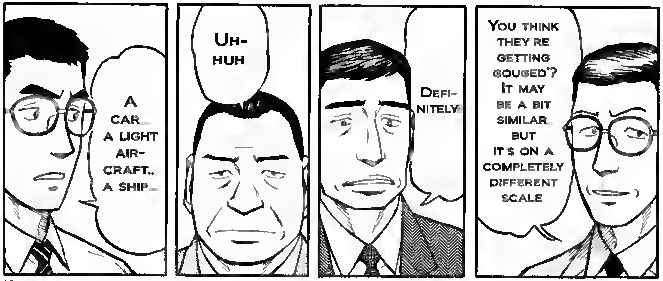

You mean of the sudden flash of light?
There have been a few witnesses...
What do they put in the articles?

17

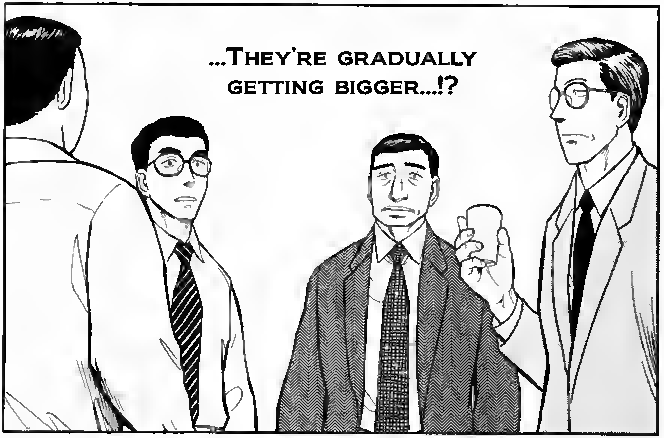

What on earth is going on?

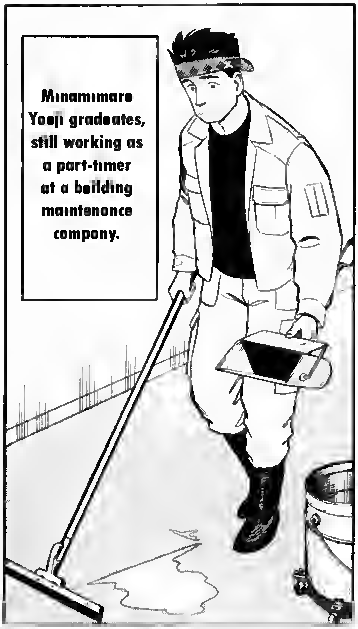

Witnesses say before the Chief Cabinet Secretary vanished a few months ago he was enclosed by a bright light
This hasn't been made public but...

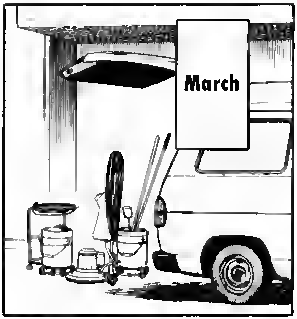

Huh?
The Gouger thing?
Isn't it like that thing?


A car... a light aircraft... a ship...
Uh-huh
Definitely
You think they're getting gouged? It may be a bit similar, but it's on a completely different scale

18

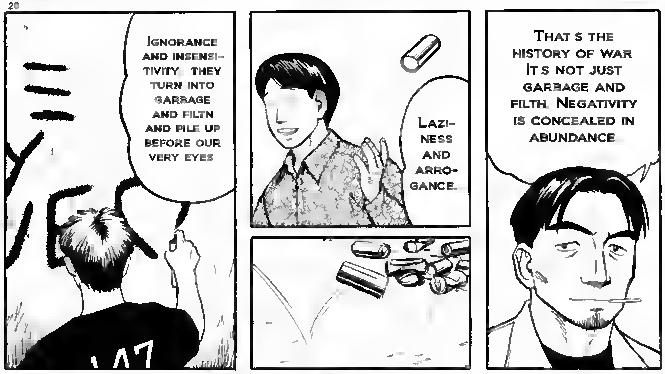

...They're gradually getting bigger...!?

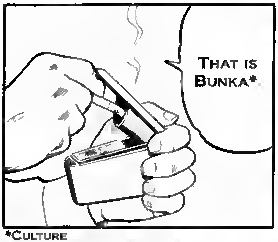

Minamimaro Yoeji graduates, still working as a part-timer at a building maintenance company.

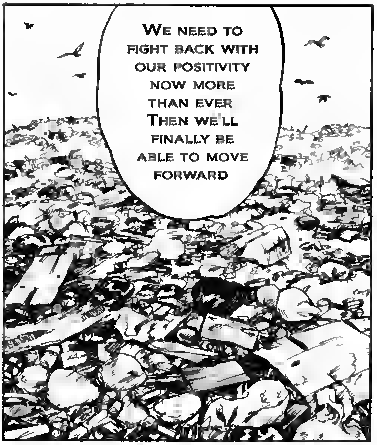

March

Oh You've graduated huh

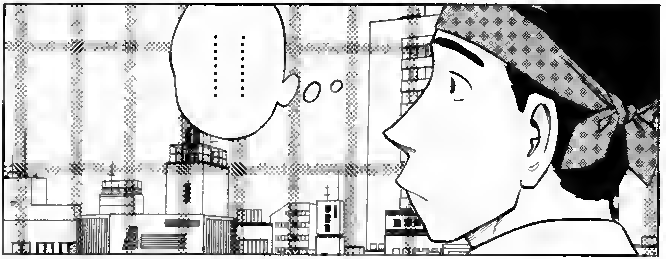
I SEE.. TIME S A HARD TASK-MASTER..
I DON T KNOW YET.
SO? ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK FOR A WHITE-COLLAR JOB?
..ARE HIDDEN IN OFT-OVER-LOOKED PLACES..
I REALIZED IN SOCIETY.. SO MANY PEOPLES WISDOM IDEAS, THOUGHTS..
IT'S JUST HOW DO I PUT IT? THE WORLD IS GETTING BIGGER


IGNORANCE AND INSENSI-TIVITY. THEY TURN INTO GARBAGE AND FILTH AND PILE UP BEFORE OUR VERY EYES
LAZI-NESS AND ARRO-GANCE..
THAT S THE HISTORY OF WAR IT S NOT JUST GARBAGE AND FILTH. NEGATIVITY IS CONCEALED IN ABUNDANCE


That is Bunka*


We need to fight back with our positivity now more than ever Then we'll finally be able to move forward

*Culture


.....
ooo

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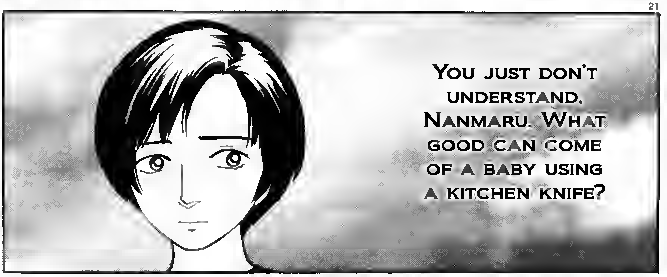
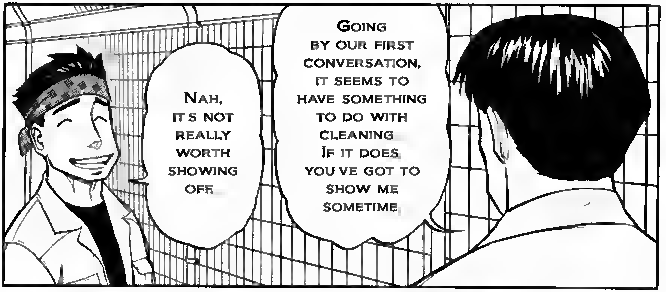
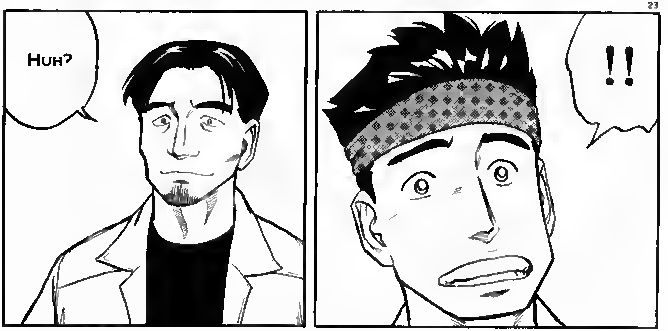

You just don't understand, Nanmaru. What good can come of a baby using a kitchen knife?

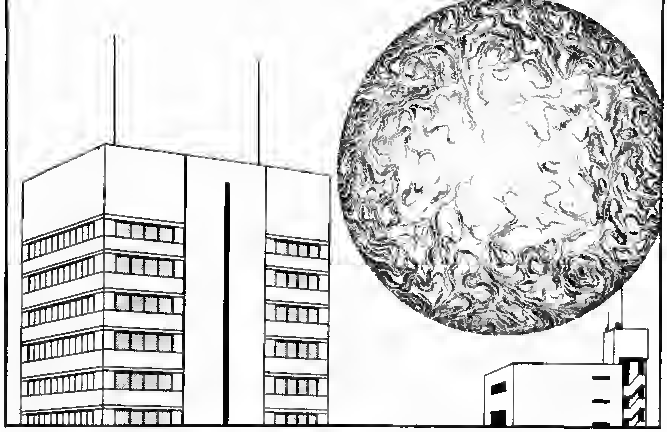
A positive device.
That's it, isn't it.
In order to make use of my ability, I need the proper tools and wisdom.

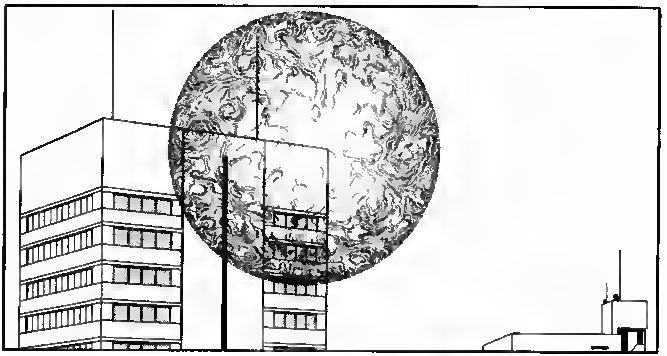
You keep mentioning some sort of ability. What is it?
Come to think of it Nanmaru!


Going by our first conversation, it seems to have something to do with cleaning. If it does, you've got to show me sometime.
Nah, it's not really worth showing off.


Huh?
!!

A BALL OF SMOG?
WHAT'S THAT?





I'D BETTER DO WHAT?
YOU'D BETTER CLOSE YOUR EYES...

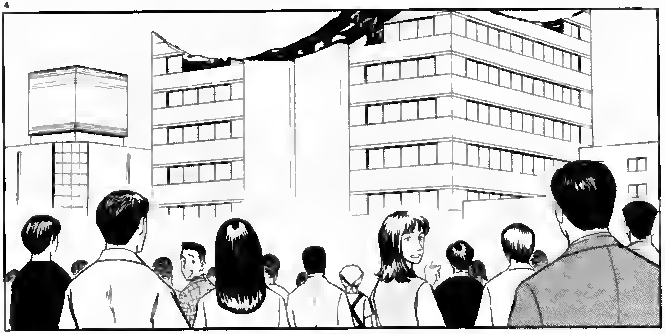
Chapter XXI

MOVING FORWARD

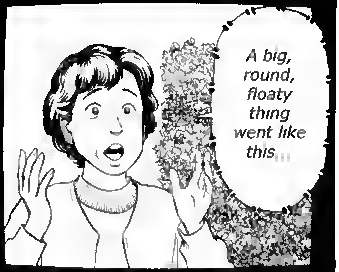
The Project Scanlations

OH, I'D BETTER CLOSE MY EYES

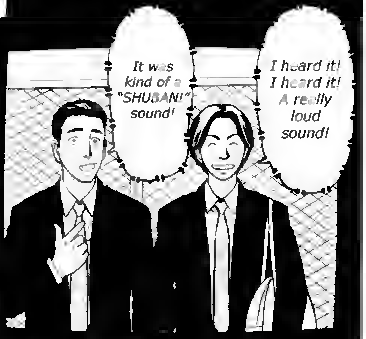
WHERE IS HE!?
HE MUST BE CLOSE!



We could see the flash from here.
20km away from the site


A big, round, floaty thing went like this...

There was wind.

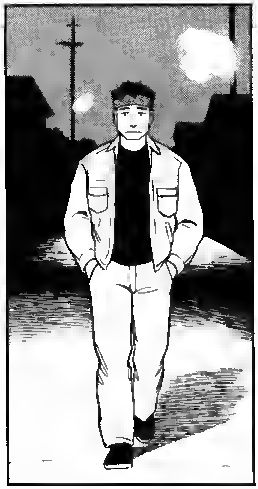

It was kind of a "SHUBAN!" sound!
I heard it! I heard it! A really loud sound!

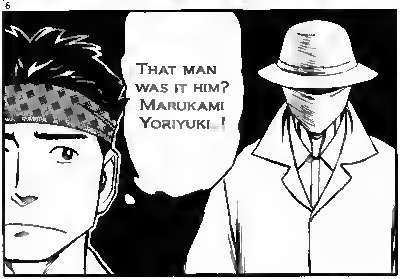
Whether it was due to an accident, a natural phenomenon or a new type of weapon is not known at this point.
.....

The wind blew towards the area that lit up.
It wasn't like a blast

An estimated 450 people are presumed to be missing
13 people have been confirmed dead and 18 more injured.

THAT WAS "OUTSIDE THE WINDOW"



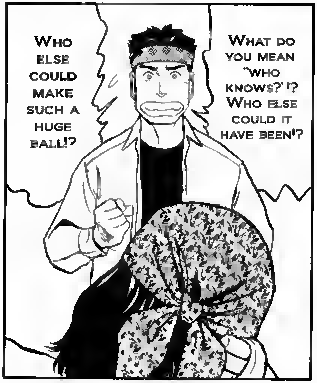

THAT MAN WAS IT HIM? MARUKAMI YORIYUKI!

If it was, this is no time to be talking about village secrets!
He's a demon! It's no exaggeration. He actually is!
Huh? My keyhole...
I can't just ignore this!
AAAAAAAA~ AAAAAAAH!?

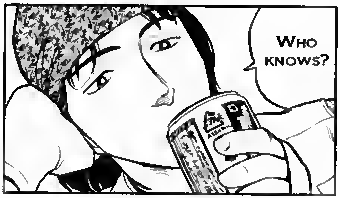
You! Breaking into people's homes!
Ah welcome back
So what? It's a crappy place anyway
I'll be driveh out of my apart-ment!
More importantly, my door knob! My door knob!
What are you doing here !?
That's not the point!
This is for the door
Wah

HEY THAT'S RIGHT ABOUT THAT
.....

ESP MASTER
COME ON, THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT I'M YOUR MASTER


WHO ELSE COULD MAKE SUCH A HUGE BALL!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHO KNOWS?"!? WHO ELSE COULD IT HAVE BEEN!?

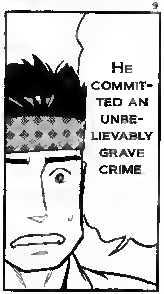
WAS MARUKAMI MASAYORI THE ONE WHO DESTROYED THAT BUILDING TODAY?


WHO KNOWS?

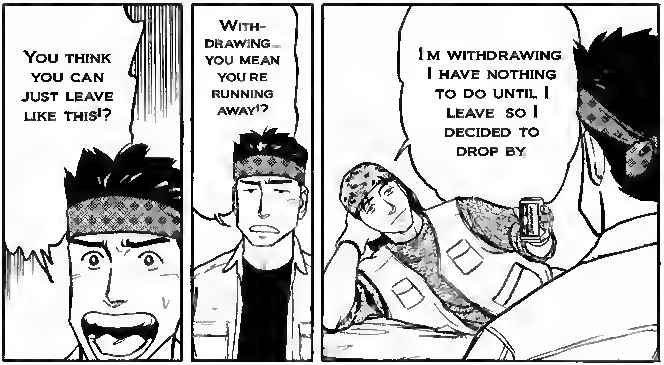
HUH?

HOW'S SACHIKO ?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?


HE COMMITTED AN UNBELIEVABLY GRAVE CRIME

*Literally "the gloom in (a) heart(s)" The meaning of this phrase is ambiguous. There's no number or subject indicator so it could mean "the gloom in his heart" "the gloom in peoples' hearts" "the gloom in our hearts" etc. I left it translated as "the gloom"


You think you can just leave like this!?
With-drawing... you mean you're running away!?
I'm withdrawing. I have nothing to do until I leave so I decided to drop by.

Her body? You saw it?
!
Are you really worried about your little sister? After what you've done to her body?
I can't forgive you!
But I..
You two are in that kind of relation-ship!?
That's not it!
So
What do you mean by that!?
Next time you see her tell her I said sorry, okay?
It happened ages ago Ages.

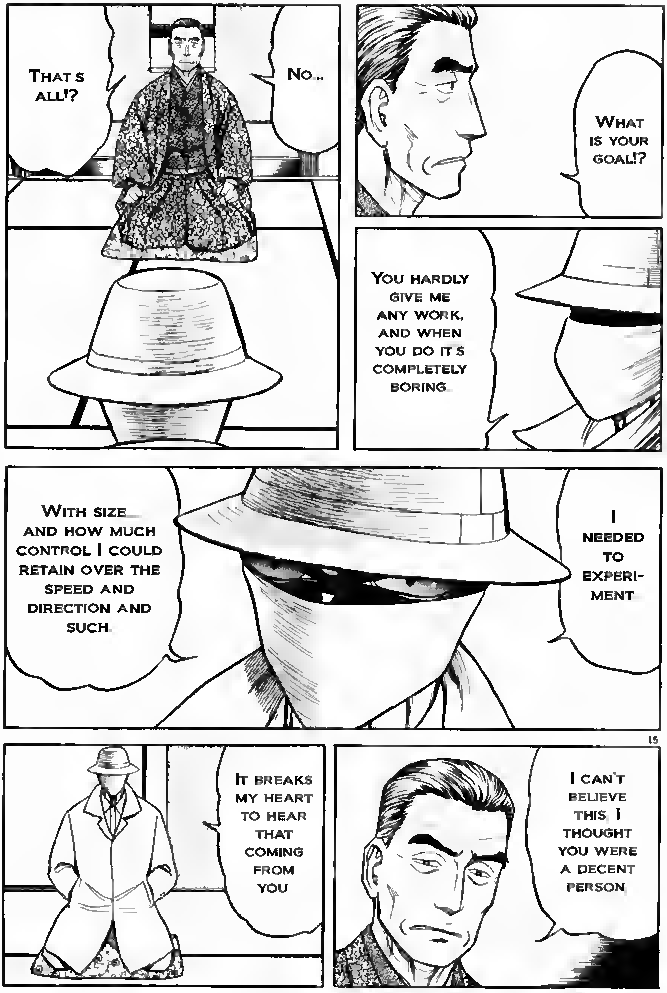
IF I WAIT, I MIGHT MISS SOMETHING EVEN MORE FUN
WAIT!
LATER
HEY!
17
.....

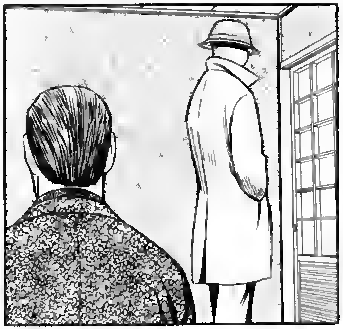
Hello? Emi-sensei? It's Nanmaru
You watched the news today, right?
I can't just leave things like this!

At the same time

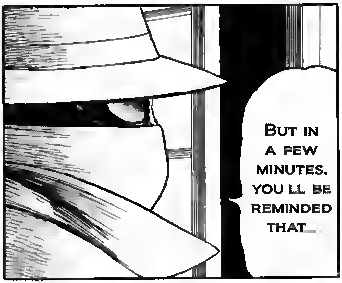
..What are you thinking?...
These strange incidents that occur from time to time are your doing, aren't they?

Today's was great, wasn't it?


That's all!?
No..
What is your goal!?
You hardly give me any work, and when you do it's completely boring.
With size... and how much control I could retain over the speed and direction and such.
I needed to experiment.
15
It breaks my heart to hear that coming from you.
I can't believe this. I thought you were a decent person.



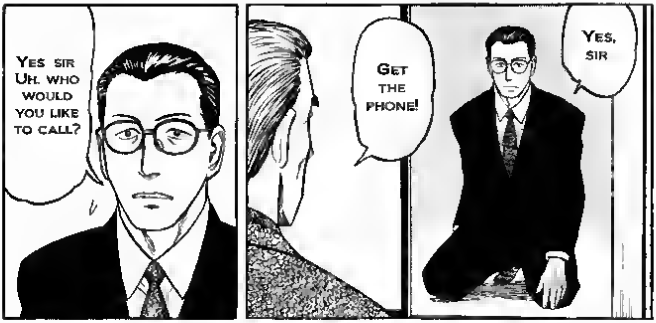
Well, anyway, it was nice working with you


But in a few minutes, you'll be reminded that...

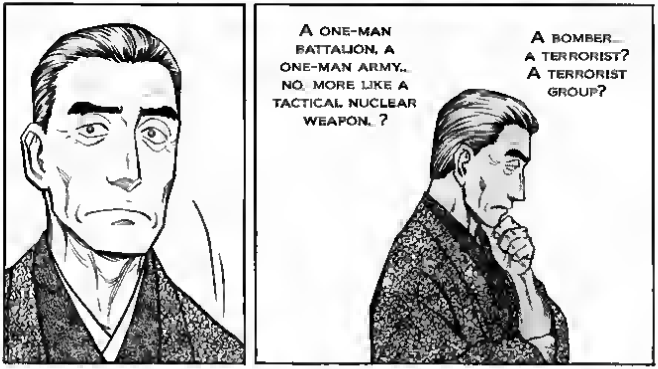
.....

"Once you choose to keep a pet, you must bear responsibility for it until the very end."

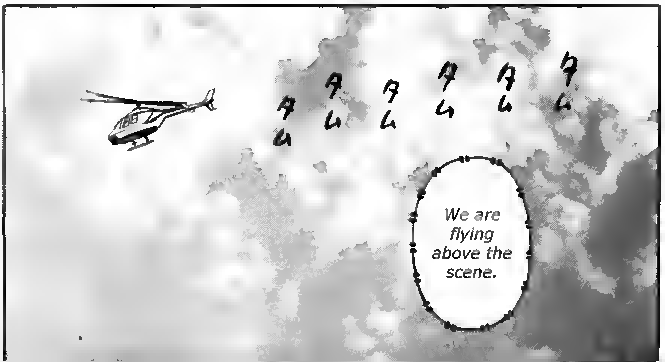
WHAT?
17
HEY! SOMEBODY COME!
チョチョ


YES SIR UH. WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO CALL?
GET THE PHONE!
YES, SIR

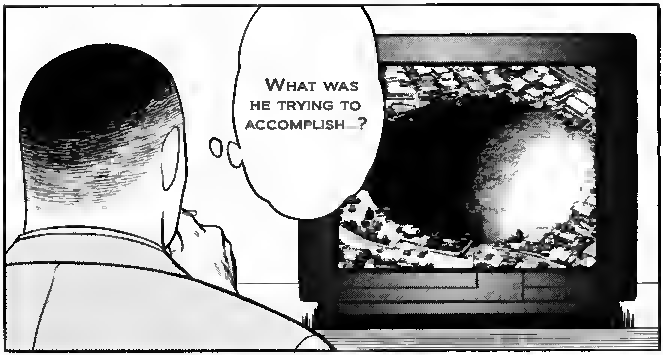
JUDGING BY HIS MILITARY MIGHT...
HIM WHO IS HE? WHAT IS HE?
.....
WHO?

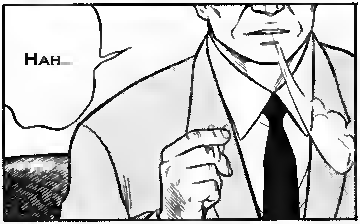

A ONE-MAN BATTALION, A ONE-MAN ARMY.. NO. MORE LIKE A TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPON. ?
A BOMBER... A TERRORIST? A TERRORIST GROUP?

CALL THE OFFICIAL RES.
GET ME THE PRIME MINISTER !


タムタムタムタムタムタムタムタムタムタムタムタム
We are flying above the scene.

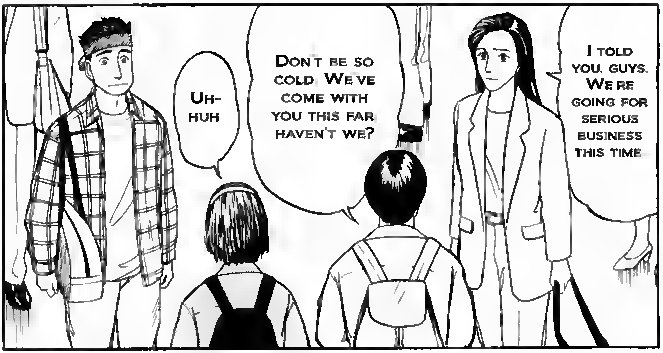
In relation to yesterday, yet another unbelievable scene is right before our eyes.

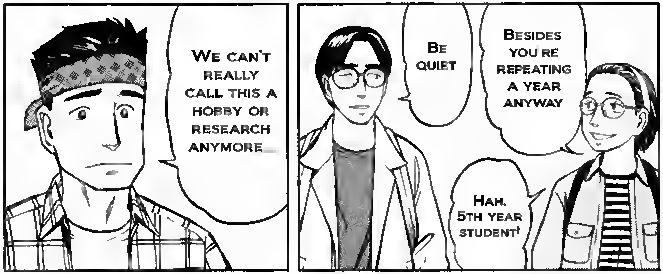

What was he trying to accomplish...?

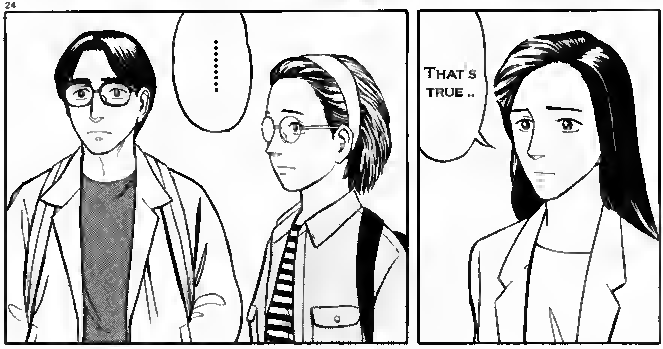

Hah...

In any case it seems like I've gotten myself mixed up in something big.

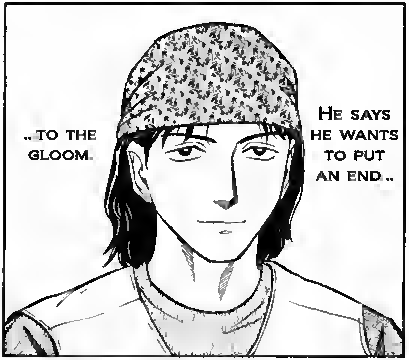
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
SENSEI
LONG TIME NO SEE!
TA-DAH!
HEY. IT'S YOU GUYS.

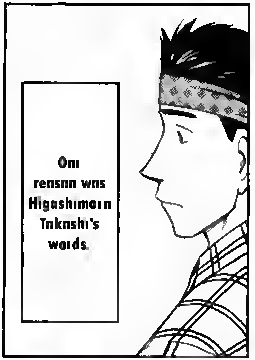

I told you, guys. We're going for serious business this time
Don't be so cold. We've come with you this far haven't we?
Uh-huh


We can't really call this a hobby or research anymore...
Be quiet
Besides you're repeating a year anyway
Hah. 5th year student!


.....
That's true..

We're going to Marahami Village to solve all the mysteries.

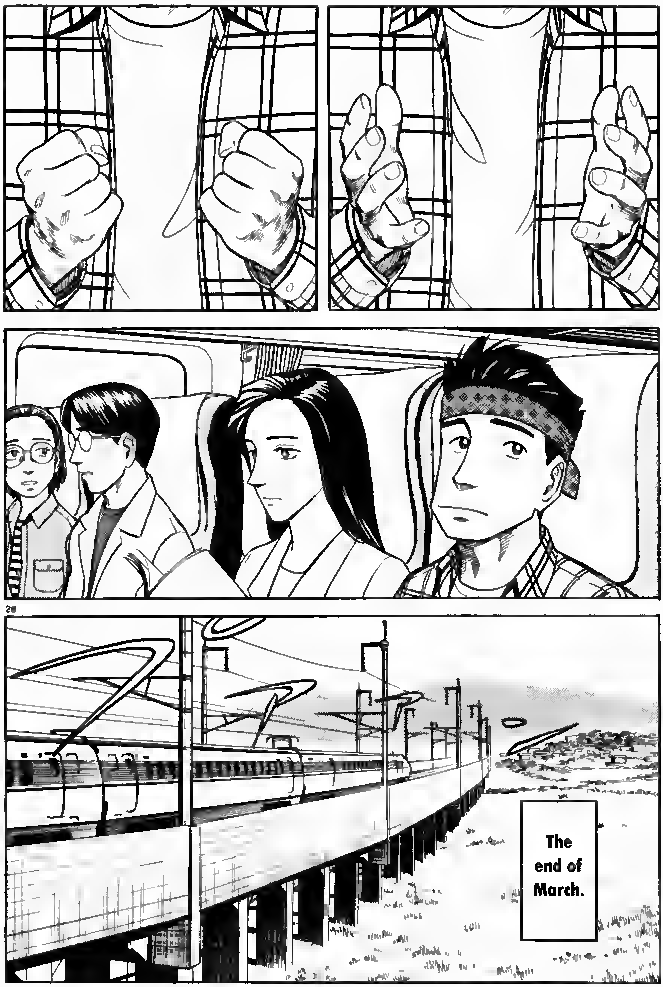

..TO THE GLOOM.
He says he wants to put an end..


Oni rensan was Higashimori Takashi's words.

25

The closest place to the answer is probably...
That man who brandishes a dangerous weapon without hesitation... what is his goal?

...There.


The end of March.

七夕の国3

ビッグ コミックス

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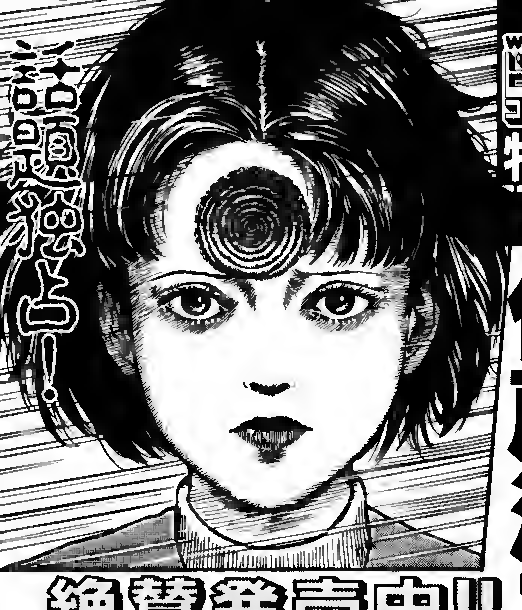

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